

Removal of Recognising Positive Achievement

In October 2018, the Deputy First Minister [announced](#) that the interim measure of 'Recognising Positive Achievement' – the automatic fallback to National 4 – would end from session 2019-20.

Recognising Positive Achievement will therefore end after the current session 2018-19. From session 2019-20, candidates who are unsuccessful in their National 5 course assessment but who have passed a combination of SCQF level 5 freestanding units, and the National 4 added value unit, will no longer achieve the National 4 course.

Learners will be certificated for the qualifications in which they have **both** been entered for and have achieved – subject to quality assurance.

The following table gives examples of some of the qualification combinations used and how they will be certificated from session 2019-20:

Result		Certificated
National 4 course National 4 units (pass) National 4 added value unit (pass)	→	National 4
National 5 course (grade A-D)	→	National 5
National 5 course (grade A-D) SCQF level 5 units (pass)	→	National 5 SCQF level 5 units
National 5 course (no award) SCQF level 5 units (pass)	→	SCQF level 5 units
National 5 course (no award) SCQF level 5 units (pass) National 4 added value unit (pass)	→	SCQF level 5 units National 4 added value unit

When centres are deciding on which qualifications to present their learners for, consideration should be given to the workload that will be associated with each qualification. As such, learners should continue to be presented for qualifications at the most appropriate level for their needs.

The threshold for Grade D at National 5 was extended to a notional 40-49% from session 2017-18 onwards. This is to recognise the achievement of a wider group of candidates at SCQF level 5.

Grade D has also been extended to 40-49% as part of the revisions to Higher and will be extended for Advanced Higher from session 2019-20.

In addition, all units and courses must be available for quality assurance prior to certification.

If you have any queries on the above changes, please speak to your local Liaison Manager or e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk