

## Childcare and Development

### The Qualifications Team

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## Diet 2018

### Course reports

Please read the annual course report for Higher Childcare and Development. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the [Childcare and Development subject pages](#) of our website.

## Coursework

### Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification (National 5 and Higher)
- course assessment specification (Advanced Higher)
- coursework assessment task

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You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

## **Submitting coursework**

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

## **Higher**

### **Revised Higher documents and assessment support materials**

#### **Course specification**

In April 2018, we published a revised course specification which provides detailed information about the Higher course and course assessment, including the conditions of assessment that must be followed. The revised document was produced by merging the previous course specifications, course assessment specifications and general assessment information into a single, streamlined document. Course support notes have been added to the course specification as an appendix.

The new course specification is on the [Childcare and Development web page](#).

#### **Coursework assessment task**

The Higher Childcare and Development coursework assessment task has been revised and published on the [Childcare and Development web page](#).

This document contains the project briefs that were previously published on the secure site. Please note that new briefs have been published for this session. The project is now worth 90 marks (70%) of the overall marks for course assessment.

Please ensure you are familiar with the new briefs, revised prompts and mark allocation for the project as candidates must use the current format.

#### **Specimen question paper**

The specimen question paper for Higher Childcare and Development has been published on the [Childcare and Development web page](#)

The specimen question paper is worth 40 marks and the duration of the paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes. The specimen question paper has three sections:

Section 1 — child development — 15 marks

Section 2 — child development theory — 10 marks

Section 3 — services for children and young people — 15 marks

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## Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources may include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment
- **Webinar recordings** — recordings of recent online CPD webinar sessions delivered by our subject implementation managers, to guide you through the changes to assessment
- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment

You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards).

## Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject. There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the [Childcare and Development subject landing page](#).

## Further information and guidance

We launched a new resource to support teaching and learning of Early Learning and Childcare qualifications in September. The resource covers a variety of live childcare environments such as pre-school, primary, outdoor learning and childminding. Video footage of these environments is supported by case studies, links to further areas for research, and interviews with the professionals who work in these environments. These can be used as case studies to support learners' understanding of the sector.

Find out more at [www.elcresource.co.uk](http://www.elcresource.co.uk).

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## Stay informed

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Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. The newsletter is sent to your SQA co-ordinator and you can also subscribe directly at <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/centrenews/step1>.

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#### Contact us

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