

Arrangements for National 3 and National 4 English in session 2020–21



As a result of the modifications to the Higher and Advanced Higher course assessments for session 2020–21, we have been exploring the implications for National 3 and National 4 courses.

We are making the following modifications to National 3 and National 4 assessment for session 2020–21 to support the delivery of learning, teaching and assessment. These modifications remove the requirement to assess talking in mandatory component units for National 3 and National 4 English. In addition, we are also making modifications to the freestanding units at SCQF levels 5 and 6.

Talking skills are fundamental to English and Literacy courses. Talking does not need to be formally assessed in session 2020–21; however, centres are encouraged to continue to develop these skills where there are opportunities to do so. Discussion can be an effective contributor to learning, and we encourage integrating this into all areas of the course, where appropriate.

National 3

There is no requirement to assess talking in the Producing Language and Literacy component units.

National 4

There is no requirement to assess talking in the Creation and Production and Literacy component units.

The English: Assignment (National 4) added value unit is a mandatory unit in the National 4 English course. The unit is internally assessed and is subject to external verification.

For session 2020–21, assessment standard 1.4 'responding to oral questions relevant to the topic' does not need to be formally assessed and will not be subject to external verification.

Depending on the approach taken by a centre, a significant amount of class time can be spent on this particular assessment standard. This modification will allow for more independent learning in the added value unit.

Freestanding units at SCQF levels 5 and 6

In addition to the modifications above, the assessment of talking skills has been removed from the freestanding English: Creation and Production and Literacy units.

In session 2020–21, there is no requirement to assess talking skills in the following English and Literacy freestanding units:

- ◆ Literacy SCQF level 5
- ◆ Creation and Production SCQF levels 5 and 6

If you have any questions about these changes, please email NQ2020@sqa.org.uk.