

Arrangements for National 3 and National 4 Science 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 assessments for session 2020–21 to support the delivery of learning, teaching and assessment.

National 3

The requirement to complete outcome 1 for the unit assessment is being removed for session 2020–21.

Outcome 1 of the units in National 3 Science requires candidates to ‘carry out and report on a practical experiment’; and under current restrictions, carrying out practical work safely is an issue for centres.

Teachers and lecturers should ensure candidates develop practical skills, where possible, as these skills are a feature of the National 3 course.

National 4

The requirement to complete outcome 1 for the unit assessment is being removed for session 2020–21.

Outcome 1 of the units in National 4 Science requires candidates to ‘carry out and report on a practical experiment’; and under current restrictions, carrying out practical work safely is an issue for centres.

Added value unit

The requirement to complete the added value unit is also removed for session 2020–21. This is a temporary modification to support with learning, teaching and assessment this session. For session 2020–21 only, the added value unit results do not need to be evidence-based. For candidates who pass all contributing units for the course, teachers and lecturers need to submit a ‘pass’ result for the added value unit to ensure that the candidates are certificated for the overall course award.

The added value unit allows a range of approaches, including literature research rather than practical work, however much of the evidence seen at verification includes practical work. Access to IT facilities in session 2020–21 could impede candidates’ ability to undertake the research element of the unit.

Teachers and lecturers should ensure candidates develop practical skills, where possible, as these skills are a feature of the National 4 course.

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