SQA statement on coursework – in Fiona's name– DRAFT v5

Tuesday 24 March 2020

Following the announcement by the First Minister on Sunday, that no young person with SQA coursework to complete should attend school to do so, we continue to work hard on how we should take coursework evidence into account, in determining young people's final grades.

Everyone here at SQA will do their utmost, given the current situation, and with the support of the education system, to ensure that learners' hard work is rightly and fairly recognised and allows them to proceed to further learning or work.

The current public health advice has meant that we have had to make some really difficult decisions about coursework. This means that for this year, learners are not required to complete or submit coursework components for Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

We have taken this difficult decision to be as fair as possible to all Higher and Advanced Higher candidates, whilst taking on board the current public health advice, the many varied coursework requirements across different subjects, and how these are managed in schools and colleges across the country.

I appreciate that some learners may have already completed their coursework for Higher and Advanced Higher courses. We have committed to delivering a post-results service for the 2020 examinations, and we are working to determine the feasibility of considering coursework as part of the wider evidence that could be submitted as part of this service.

While we have received a volume of coursework for National 5 subjects, some have still to be submitted to us. We are therefore now considering the logistics of marking National 5 coursework. We will be contacting our National 5 coursework markers, to provide them with further information.

We will provide further details on the estimation of grades, that we will continue to need from teachers and lecturers, and details of our approach to certification, in the coming days.

This is an unprecedented situation for us all, and circumstances are rapidly changing. With every change in circumstances, we continue to consider how best to recognise learner achievement in as fair a way as possible.

Please be assured that everyone here at SQA is fully committed to working with you to deliver for Scotland's young people. Thank you for your patience and continued co-operation.

Fiona Robertson
SQA Chief Executive and Scotland's Chief Examiner