

National 5 Psychology



Guidance on gathering key evidence for producing estimates in session 2020–21

This document provides subject-level guidance to SQA approved centres on gathering key evidence to support estimates for National 5 Psychology in session 2020–21. You should read this guidance alongside [National Courses: guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates](#) and the SQA Academy resource, [Quality assurance of estimates for National Courses](#).

This document also includes information on subject-level assessment resources.

Gathering key evidence to produce estimates for National 5 Psychology

Every year you provide estimates for your candidates. This document and *National Courses: guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates* will give you additional support and guidance to support your decision making for session 2020–21. Evidence should be gathered later in the course, as a realistic reflection of a candidate's attainment. It is important to note that it is not the **quantity** of evidence, but the **quality** of evidence, in relation to its predictive value, that will support you during the estimation process.

The following types of key evidence are likely to provide a good predictive value and may be helpful, although there may be other types of key evidence you feel you would like to use.

Types of key evidence and assessment resources

Key assessment evidence should be gathered from occasions where candidates have been given opportunities to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding across all components of the course:

- ◆ Individual Behaviour (question paper)
- ◆ Social Behaviour (question paper)
- ◆ assignment (coursework)

Component 1: question paper

You have the flexibility to choose how you gather assessment evidence for your candidates. The most robust evidence for the question paper component is that which has been generated using an assessment task that replicates, as far as possible, the SQA question paper. The evidence does not need to be generated on a single occasion if this is not practical under restrictions current at the time of the assessment. It should, however, be generated under supervision and control, where possible.

Assessment evidence is required from both sections of the question paper:

- ◆ Individual Behaviour: this can be from the mandatory topic 'Sleep and Dreams' **or** the optional topics of 'Phobias' **or** 'Personality'
- ◆ Social Behaviour: this can be from the mandatory topic 'Conformity' **or** the optional topics of 'Altruism' **or** 'Non-Verbal Communication (NVC)'

This is in line with the modifications that were planned for National 5 Psychology but aims to offer more flexibility in that you are not restricted to the mandatory topics, but can choose from the mandatory or optional topics.

When producing your estimates, you may wish to take account of other assessment evidence, such as end of topic tests, that you have for your candidates. Please note that smaller assessment tasks are likely to be less demanding than a larger, holistic assessment and you should consider this when producing your estimates.

Assessment advice

The assessment evidence must show that candidates are able to apply skills and demonstrate knowledge and understanding by:

- ◆ describing and explaining psychological theories, concepts and topics
- ◆ describing and explaining psychological research studies
- ◆ applying knowledge to meaningful scenarios

Assessment tasks should consist of a mix of question types which generate a range of responses:

- ◆ extended-response
- ◆ restricted-response
- ◆ description
- ◆ application from one context to a new context (scenario)
- ◆ explanation, which may include appropriate exemplification
- ◆ explanation of strengths and weakness of theories and/or studies

Questions can be made up of one part or multiple parts (for example (a), (b) and so on). Questions requiring a short answer should be accessible to C candidates. Questions requiring an extended-response should stretch A candidates by allowing them to demonstrate detailed skills and knowledge, however, some of the marks should still be accessible to C candidates.

At least 50% of the total marks should be accessible to C candidates and at least 70% of the marks should be accessible to A candidates.

Assessment resources

Assessment resources that you can use to generate candidate evidence for the question paper component include:

- ◆ questions from SQA past papers
- ◆ adapted questions from SQA past papers
- ◆ centre-devised assessment tasks such as class tests and larger, holistic assessments

SQA past papers are in the public domain and can be readily accessed by candidates and therefore, in their entirety, do not form suitable assessment tasks. You can, however, extract and adapt questions from these papers for use in centre-devised assessment tasks.

Additional resource for session 2020–21

SQA will provide a quality-assured National 5 Psychology question paper for session 2020–21, which you can use when gathering evidence to support your estimates.

You have flexibility in how you choose to use this question paper. You can use it to create two separate assessment tasks, one for each section, or you can use it as a holistic assessment task which includes two questions, one from each section.

Individual Behaviour

You can choose one of the following questions:

- ◆ Sleep and Dreams (20 marks) or
- ◆ Personality (15 marks) or
- ◆ Phobias (15 marks)

and

Social Behaviour

You can choose one of the following questions:

- ◆ Conformity (15 marks) or
- ◆ Altruism (20 marks) or
- ◆ NVC (20 marks)

If you choose to deliver separate assessment tasks, then the suggested duration for a 15–20 mark assessment is 25–35 minutes. If, however, you choose to deliver a more holistic two-question assessment task covering both sections of the question paper, the suggested duration is 50–70 minutes.

Please note, this question paper is being provided as an additional assessment resource and is not mandatory. You have the flexibility to use the whole paper or parts of it in conjunction with other assessment resources described in the previous section.

Using additional assessment resources for session 2020–21: key information

It is important that you use valid and reliable assessment when gathering evidence to produce estimates for National 5 in session 2020–21.

For National 5 Psychology, SQA will provide a question paper for session 2020–21, which you can use when gathering evidence to support your estimates. Please note that the marking instructions have not been standardised based on candidate responses. You may therefore need to agree within your centre how to consistently mark an item if a candidate response is not covered by the marking instructions.

You should carefully consider how best to use this material to support candidates, to integrate with your programme of learning, and to help you collate evidence of candidate attainment. Given current public health advice and to maximise learning and teaching time, it is important to stress that there is no expectation that schools and colleges hold a formal diet of prelims for National 5. One of the key reasons for moving to an alternative model was to create additional teaching time through removing the need for prelims and replacing the final examination diet with more flexible classroom-based assessment.

The National 5 question paper will only be available on SQA's secure website — you must treat this confidentially, in the same way as other live assessment materials. If you use the question paper in part or in its entirety, you should remind candidates that they must not discuss the content of the paper with anyone, including friends, family or on social media.

Component 2: assignment

In line with the modifications which were planned for National 5 Psychology, you can suggest the research topic to your candidates. This modification will give you greater control, allowing you to suggest the research topic for groups within the class or for the whole class, which will reduce teaching time and support delivery of the assignment.

Candidates tend to perform better in the assignment than the question paper and you should take this into consideration when producing your estimates.

Understanding the national standard

You will find six examples of candidate responses from the 2019 National 5 question paper, along with associated commentaries, on SQA's [Understanding Standards website](#).

In addition, the specimen question paper and past paper marking instructions detail how marks are allocated for each question type.

In relation to the assignment, you can find three examples of candidate responses from 2018, along with associated commentaries, on [SQA's Understanding Standards website](#).

Other resources to support understanding of the standard include:

- ◆ course specification
- ◆ course reports
- ◆ SQA past papers and marking instructions

- ◆ coursework assessment task

Summary

Estimates for National 5 Psychology should be a holistic judgement based on a candidate's demonstrated attainment in each of the following:

- ◆ Individual Behaviour (Sleep and Dreams or Phobias or Personality)
- ◆ Social Behaviour (Conformity or Altruism or NVC)
- ◆ assignment (you can suggest the research topic to your candidates)