

National 5 Classical Studies



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 Classical Studies 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 Classical Studies

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 evidence

For National 5 Classical Studies in session 2020–21, key evidence only needs to come from the question paper component; there is no requirement for candidates to complete an assignment. However, any assignment evidence you do have for a candidate can still be considered for estimate purposes.

There is flexibility in how you gather evidence. The most robust evidence for the question paper component, in terms of providing breadth, depth and level of challenge, is that which has been generated using an assessment that replicates, as far as possible, the SQA question paper. This does not need to be produced on a single occasion, however it should be done under supervision and control, where possible.

Other evidence relating to the question paper component may include unseen shorter assessments that have appropriate timings, and that are conducted under supervision and control, where possible. For example, an assessment which replicates two sections of the question paper, or class tests that cover knowledge and understanding content from a context once it has been taught. It should be noted that shorter assessments are likely to provide less breadth, depth and challenge than a full assessment, and this should be considered if they are being combined and used for estimate purposes.

Assessment resources

Assessment resources that you can use to generate candidate evidence include:

- ◆ questions from SQA past papers and the specimen question paper
- ◆ adapted questions from SQA past papers and the specimen question paper
- ◆ centre-devised questions

As an additional assessment resource for session 2020–21, a quality-assured National 5 Classical Studies question paper will be provided on SQA’s secure website.

SQA past papers and the specimen question paper 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.

Component 1: question paper

The question paper gives candidates an opportunity to demonstrate application of skills, and breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding from across the course. While we recommend that you aim to deliver the course as normal, we recognise that there may be some disruption to learning and teaching during the 2020–21 session, which may make this more challenging. You are free to decide the timing and depth of delivery of the course content. However, it is important that candidate evidence for estimates:

- ◆ samples knowledge and understanding from each of the three sections of the course:
 - Life in classical Greece
 - Classical literature
 - Life in the Roman world
- ◆ assesses the following skills for Life in classical Greece and Life in the Roman world:
 - describing an event or aspect of life (Describe . . .)
 - explaining an event or aspect of life (Explain the reasons why . . .)
 - analysing an issue and coming to a conclusion (To what extent . . .)
 - comparing and contrasting aspects of the classical world with the modern world (Compare . . .)
 - evaluating the usefulness of a source (Evaluate the usefulness of a source . . .)
 - explaining the meaning of a source or sources* (Explain what source tells us about . . .)(*in Life in the Roman world candidates must demonstrate source-handling skills using two sources)
- ◆ assesses the following skills for Classical literature:
 - describing a theme as exemplified in a classical text (Describe . . .)
 - explaining how this theme was viewed more widely in the classical world (Explain what this tells us about . . .)
 - comparing the classical view of the theme with the way it is viewed in the modern world (Do we still view . . . Give reasons for your answer)

The course specification outlines in more detail the skills, knowledge and understanding associated with the question paper.

Component 2: assignment

In line with the modifications that were planned for National 5 Classical Studies, there are no requirements for candidates to complete an assignment for session 2020–21. Therefore, this component does not need to be considered when arriving at a final estimated grade for each candidate.

However, we recognise that some candidates may have already completed or partially completed an assignment. Where this is the case, you can use this as supporting evidence, alongside other key evidence, when carrying out a holistic review of a candidate's performance. Candidates tend to perform better in the assignment than the question paper, and you should take this into consideration when producing your estimates.

The course specification and the coursework assessment task outline in detail the skills, knowledge and understanding associated with the assignment.

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 Classical Studies, SQA will provide a question paper for session 2020–21, which you can use when gathering evidence to support your estimates. This question paper is being provided as an assessment resource and is not mandatory.

There is flexibility in how you can use this resource, such as:

- ◆ as a full assessment conducted under supervision and control, where possible. As indicated above, this does not need to be produced on a single occasion
- ◆ to break up into sections and use as shorter assessments to assess candidates at an appropriate point in their learning. These should be conducted under supervision and control, where possible, and with appropriate timings
- ◆ to deconstruct and use as best suits your learning and teaching

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 and marking instructions will only be available on SQA's secure website — you must treat these 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.

Understanding the national standard

Examples of candidate evidence with commentaries can be found on [SQA's Understanding Standards website](#). These can also be accessed via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the [National 5 Classical Studies subject page](#).

Additional examples of candidate evidence with commentaries will be added to the [National 5 Classical Studies Understanding Standards page](#), in due course.

Further resources

The following resources can also be consulted and are available on the [National 5 Classical Studies subject page](#):

- ◆ course specification
- ◆ specimen question paper and marking instructions
- ◆ past papers and marking instructions
- ◆ subject updates
- ◆ course reports

Summary

You should base your estimates for National 5 Classical Studies on a holistic review of a candidate's performance based on demonstrated attainment of the following:

- ◆ knowledge and understanding from the three areas of study of the National 5 Classical Studies course: Life in classical Greece, Classical literature, and Life in the Roman world
- ◆ responses to the different question types listed above

If you have candidate evidence for the assignment component, then you may also consider this when reaching an estimate for each candidate.