

National 5 Geography



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 Geography 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 Geography

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

In line with the modifications that were planned for National 5 Geography, key assessment evidence only needs to come from the question paper component. There is no requirement for candidates to complete an assignment, however, if you have assignment evidence for your candidates, you can take account of this when producing your estimates.

You have the flexibility to choose how you gather assessment evidence for your candidates. 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 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.

Component 1: question paper

Assessment evidence is required from the three sections of the course:

- ◆ Physical Environments (including at least one landscape type)
- ◆ Human Environments
- ◆ Global Issues (including at least one global issue)

This evidence must include sampling of the following skills:

- ◆ mapping skills
- ◆ extracting, interpreting and presenting numerical and graphical information

You have the flexibility to gather this evidence from a single assessment task or through a series of smaller assessment tasks.

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 therefore you should consider this when producing your estimates.

Assessment advice

Assessment tasks should reflect the range of question types found in an SQA question paper. The most common question types in National 5 Geography are:

- ◆ Describe . . .
- ◆ Explain . . .
- ◆ Give reasons . . .
- ◆ Match . . .
- ◆ Give map evidence . . .
- ◆ Give advantages and/or disadvantages . . .

Questions can be made up of one part or multiple parts (for example (a), (b) and so on). They should allow a mix of short- (for example a 3-mark question) and extended-responses (for example a 6-mark question). Questions requiring a short-response should be accessible to typical 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 total marks should be accessible to A candidates.

Component 2: assignment

As mentioned previously, there is no requirement for candidates to complete an assignment for session 2020–21, therefore, you do not need to consider this component when arriving at a final estimated grade for each candidate. We recognise, however, 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 all other 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.

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 Geography, SQA will provide a question paper for session 2020–21, which you can use when gathering evidence to support your estimates.

If you wish to deliver a series of smaller assessments, then a possible option is to deconstruct this question paper and deliver separate assessments as follows:

- ◆ Physical Environments (30 marks); suggested duration: 50–60 minutes
- ◆ Human Environments (30 marks); suggested duration: 50–60 minutes
- ◆ Global Issues (10 marks); suggested duration: 20 minutes

This is one possible option; you have flexibility to deconstruct the question paper and deliver assessment tasks in a manner that best suits your circumstances. Alternatively, you can use the question paper as a holistic assessment. If you wish to do this but cover only one Global Issue, then the suggested duration of the assessment is 2 hours and 5 minutes.

Both questions 1 and 2 in the paper cover two landscape types. You can use the paper as it is or adapt the relevant question for one landscape type.

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.

Please note, this question paper is being provided as an 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.

Assessment resources

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

- ◆ questions from SQA past papers
- ◆ adapted questions from SQA past papers
- ◆ centre-devised assessment tasks which replicate the question paper
- ◆ commercial papers

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.

Commercial papers have not been through the same quality assurance processes as SQA question papers and should therefore be reviewed in relation to the course specification to ensure that they are valid.

Understanding the national standard

You can find eight examples of candidate responses from the 2018 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.

Assignment candidate exemplars and associated commentaries are also available on SQA's Understanding Standards website.

Other resources to support understanding of the standard include:

- ◆ course specification
- ◆ course reports
- ◆ coursework assessment task

Summary

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

- ◆ Physical Environments
- ◆ Human Environments
- ◆ Global Issues
- ◆ assignment evidence (if available)