

# National 5 Modern Languages



## 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 Modern Languages 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 Modern Languages

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 (see 'Supplementary evidence' section below).

### Types of key evidence and assessment resources

An estimate should be based on a holistic review of a candidate's attainment across the National 5 Modern Languages course. You must therefore consider your candidates' performance in the four skills of reading, listening, talking and writing and submit an overall estimate based on the assessment of these four skills.

Evidence generated by an assessment that is similar to the final course assessment will have a stronger predictive value than evidence generated by an assessment that is considerably different to the final course assessment.

## **Question paper components 1, 2, and 3: Reading, Writing, Listening**

Internally assessed examinations held later in the year are likely to be the most reliable indicator of performance in a question paper, particularly if you ensure that the assessment conditions are the same as those that normally apply to the external examination.

For National 5 Modern Languages, this means that candidates should have the opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

### **Component 1: question paper 1 Reading**

- ◆ understand detailed written language and significant ideas and/or information and supporting details from the contexts of: society, learning, employability, culture
- ◆ extract the main points and details of texts

### **Component 2: question paper 1 Writing (job application)**

- ◆ use detailed written language in the modern language
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of the modern language

### **Component 3: question paper 2 Listening**

- ◆ understand detailed spoken language in the modern language from the contexts of: society, learning, employability, culture
- ◆ select relevant information
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of the modern language
- ◆ apply grammatical knowledge and understanding

Key evidence for these components should sample content across the four contexts of: society, learning, employability, culture.

## **Coursework component**

### **Component 5: performance–talking**

The best evidence to support the performance–talking is a live recording: either video or audio, as appropriate. For National 5 Modern Languages, this means that candidates should have the opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ the ability to use detailed spoken language as part of a presentation and conversation on the chosen topics
- ◆ the ability to use language accurately to convey meaning
- ◆ the ability to maintain interaction as appropriate to purpose

The performance–talking is a one-off, single assessment event.

## **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.

In National 5 Modern Languages, SQA will provide question papers 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.

The National 5 question papers will only be available on SQA's secure website — you must treat these confidentially, in the same way as other live assessment materials.

You should carefully consider how best to use these materials 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.

If you use a 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.

### **Supplementary evidence**

Where candidates have completed the assignment–writing, or aspects of it, you may wish to submit this as supplementary evidence. There is no requirement for you to assign a mark to these pieces of writing.

You may also wish to conduct assessments based on the existing freestanding unit assessments (Understanding Language and Using Language) available on SQA's secure site. These assessments have a different purpose to the usual external examination and are not subject to the same conditions of assessment; however, they can provide an indication of the performance level of individual candidates. If candidates attempt more than one freestanding unit assessment, this may demonstrate progress candidates have made. You may wish to use these assessments as supplementary evidence.

### **Understanding the national standard**

To produce assessments which are valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair it is essential to have a clear understanding of national standards. It is important that you make use of the existing Understanding Standards materials available on [SQA Understanding Standards website](#) and on SQA's secure website, as well as past and specimen question papers.

The SQA Understanding Standards website includes exemplars of question paper writing for all languages, with commentaries to explain the marks awarded.

SQA's secure site, under the 'Understanding Standards' tab, includes exemplars of performance–talking in all languages, with commentaries to explain the marks awarded.

Other existing assessment resources include National 5 Modern Languages past and specimen question papers, which are available on the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#).

### **Devising and/or sourcing assessments**

For the skills of reading, writing (job application), and listening, many centres set an internal examination as an effective means of covering several assessment components and to ensure broad coverage of the skills, knowledge and understanding of the course. The internal examination is conducted under supervised conditions.

When setting an internal examination, please note the following:

- ◆ Candidates do not need to complete all parts of question paper component assessments at the same time. You may choose to set separate papers for reading, writing and listening.
- ◆ As far as possible, questions set should reflect the standards set by SQA for the final course assessment.
- ◆ Assessments may sample previous SQA examinations, but you must not use past papers in their entirety.
- ◆ If you devise your own assessments you must ensure that the structure, length of texts, duration and language used is appropriate for the level and meets the standards required.
- ◆ You may choose to use commercially produced question papers. These may provide suitable evidence of performance in a question paper. They do not have to be the most recent version but must meet the demands of the [National 5 Modern Languages Course Specification](#).

### **Judging evidence**

Where you are basing judgements on SQA-produced assessment materials, you should adhere to the relevant marking instructions and include any additional acceptable candidate responses as appropriate, as well as any responses which would not be accepted.

For reading, writing (job application), and listening past and specimen papers, marking instructions are published with the question paper. For general marking principles and detailed marking instructions for the performance–talking, you should refer to the National 5 Modern Languages Course Specification.

Where you use centre-devised assessments for reading and listening, these must include clear marking instructions that indicate acceptable candidate responses, as well as any responses which would not be accepted.

Commercially produced assessments have their own marking instructions and you must clearly indicate any amendments to incorporate additional acceptable candidate responses, as well as any responses which would not be accepted.

## **Grading**

For National 5 Modern Languages, you must give equal weighting to each of the four skills (reading, listening, writing, talking) to mirror the balance of the final course assessment. In practical terms this means that the writing (job application) will be scaled to 30 marks.

Marks for reading, listening, writing (job application), and talking will contribute to the final estimate.

The removal of the coursework component 4: assignment–writing from the National 5 Modern Languages course assessment in session 2020–21 means it must not be included in the calculation of the final estimate.

## **Internal quality assurance**

Information and guidance on quality assurance processes that you can apply (for example cross-marking, departmental discussion) is available on the [National Qualifications Internal Verification Toolkit web page](#).