

National Course modification summary: Drama



National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher: session 2021–22

National 4

Added value unit

The requirement to complete the added value unit is removed for session 2021–22. To achieve the overall course award for National 4 this session, candidates must pass all other contributing units in the National 4 course. You must submit a 'pass' result for the added value unit to ensure your candidates are certificated for the course award.

You are not required to gather evidence for the added value unit this session; however, it is important you give candidates opportunities to develop and demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding outlined in the National 4 added value unit specification, where possible. This will support your candidates as they progress to further learning and assessment at SCQF level 5.

National 5

Component	Marks	Scaled marks	Duration
Question paper	60	40	1 hour and 30 minutes
Performance	60	N/A	Dependant on role selected. See below for further details

Question paper

There are no changes to this component.

Performance

The following modifications for session 2021-22 remain the same as session 2020-21:

- ◆ adjustments to the volume of evidence in coursework tasks
- ◆ teachers should carefully consider the text(s) chosen, to minimise the physical interactions between candidates — we recommend no more than five candidates in a group
- ◆ make-up and hair should only be offered by centres if government health advice at the time allows. Alternatively, candidates can apply make-up and hair designs to themselves.
- ◆ centres should follow government health advice regarding an appropriate audience. Alternatively, the audience could consist of the assessor only.

The following table contains the proposed timings for scenes involving different numbers of actors:

Number of actors	Proposed timing
Two	6–8 minutes
Three	9–12 minutes
Four	12–16 minutes
Five	15–20 minutes

Production roles

It is important for all production roles that you follow current government guidance and carry out risk assessments. You should consider the text(s) chosen, to minimise the physical interactions between candidates. All production roles should be achievable with correct risk assessment and cleaning regimes in place.

If a candidate is unable to carry out any of the requirements for their production role in a practical manner; they could use plans, diagrams, working drawings, photographs (of set designs, made or adapted costumes, made props) videos (of rehearsals), folios and/or research instead.

Costume

Candidates must produce detailed costume designs and a costume list for all characters. They must create or adapt one costume according to size, style and character **or** produce an annotated design showing how they would make or adapt one costume according to size, style and character. Candidates must label, maintain and store costumes effectively and carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how they would label, maintain and store costumes effectively, and how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Lighting

Candidates must produce a lighting cue sheet that is accurate in terms of light intensity, cues, duration and types of lighting changes. They must produce a detailed lighting plot. The lighting rig candidates use must consist of a minimum of eight lanterns. Candidates must design and use a minimum of five lighting cues (reduced from seven) and three states (reduced from five) in the lighting plot. Candidates must carry out pre-show checks and operate lighting equipment on cue according to levels specified on cue sheet(s) **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks and operate lighting equipment according to levels specified on cue sheet(s). For example, you could video a candidate applying their skills independently, if they are unable to fulfil their role during live performance.

Make-up and hair

Candidates should only be offered the opportunity to choose make-up and hair in session 2021–22 if government health advice allows.

Candidates must produce designs and charts for all characters. They must select suitable materials and tools and use them safely and hygienically. Candidates must select one

character design and apply that make-up and hair design **to themselves**. Candidates should demonstrate the design under theatrical lighting.

Theatrical make-up can be supplemented with cosmetic make-up when a candidate wishes to achieve a particular effect and they have taken into account the performance space and lighting conditions they are designing for.

Props

Candidates must use a minimum of six different props (reduced from eight) from two of the three areas of personal, pre-set or hand props. They must produce a master props list. They must design and create one fully functional prop to use in the performance **or** produce a detailed account of how they would design and create one fully functional prop to use in the performance. Candidates must label and store props effectively, organise the props table efficiently and carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how props would be stored effectively and organised on the props table, and how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Set design

Candidates should produce working designs and plans for the set, including elevations, that are appropriate to the text. They must also produce detailed ground plans. Candidates must carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Sound

Candidates must produce a sound cue sheet detailing volume, duration and type. They must source and edit music and effects and provide a back-up plan **or** produce an account of how they would source and edit music and effects and provide a back-up plan. Candidates must include a minimum of four different sound effects (reduced from six) and six sound cues (reduced from eight) in their sound design. Candidates must carry out pre-show checks and operate sound equipment on cue according to sound cue sheet(s) **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks and operate sound equipment according to levels specified on cue sheet(s). For example, you could video a candidate applying their skills independently, if they are unable to fulfil their role during a live performance.

The preparation for performance remains approximately 400 words. Candidates could refer to any restraints that have made an impact on their chosen production role and explain the ways these have affected their thoughts and ideas, and final performance concepts.

Assessment items ‘creates an impact on audience’ and ‘creativity of skills’

If a candidate is unable to carry out any of the requirements for their production role in a practical manner, their mark should be determined after a holistic review all of their other evidence. Professional judgement should be used, and we strongly encourage the space provided on the mark sheet is used to provide comments explaining marking decisions.

Higher

Component	Marks	Scaled marks	Duration
Question paper	50	40	2 hours and 30 minutes
Performance	60	N/A	Dependant on role selected. See below for further details

Question paper

There are no changes to this component, however we have the following guidance:

Section 3 — candidates give a performance analysis of a theatrical production that they have seen live or recorded. The course specification states that the performance must have taken place in the last two years. For session 2021-22, we have temporarily removed this two-year rule for live and recorded performances. We recognise that live theatre performances may be cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and that most centres will now rely on recorded performances. The National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company are providing free access to high-quality, filmed performances.

Performance

- ◆ To ensure parity with directing and design options, we have reinstated the second interactive acting performance for session 2021-22.
- ◆ Centres should follow government health advice regarding an appropriate audience. Alternatively, the audience could consist of the assessor only.

Actors

Groups should be as small as possible to minimise physical interaction between candidates. We recommend no more than four actors in each performance. The approximate timings for candidates performing in two interactive acting roles is as follows:

Number of actors	Proposed timing
Two	7–10 minutes
Three	10–12 minutes
Four	12–16 minutes

The preparation for performance remains approximately 500 words.

Directors

We recommend that directors should direct no more than four actors. Candidates should direct a rehearsal lasting approximately 25–30 minutes.

Candidates must complete the preparation for performance.

Designers

Candidates should only choose make-up and hair as an additional production role in session 2021–22 if government health advice allows. Candidates can apply make-up and hair to themselves based on their designs instead of a model on the day of the assessment.

Candidates must complete the preparation for performance.

Advanced Higher

Component	Marks	Duration
Project–dissertation	30	2,500–3,000 words
Assignment	20	Candidates have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the production of evidence for assessment
Performance	50	Dependent on role selected. See below for further details

Project–dissertation

There are no changes to this component.

Assignment

There are no changes to this component.

Performance

Actors

- ◆ Groups should be as small as possible to minimise physical interaction between candidates. We recommend no more than four actors in each performance.
- ◆ Each candidate should make a maximum acting contribution of 17 minutes for the interactive piece.
- ◆ The monologue is still required to be approximately 3 minutes.
- ◆ Centres should follow government health advice regarding an appropriate audience. Alternatively, the audience could consist of the assessor only.

Directors

We recommend that directors should direct no more than four candidates. Candidates should direct a rehearsal lasting approximately 30–35 minutes.

Designers

No changes.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.