

National Course modification summary: Graphic Communication



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

National 4

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as for session 2020–21.

Added value unit

We have removed three assessment standards from the added value unit. Assessment standards 1.1 and 1.2 have been removed to align the added value unit with the National 5 assignment. Assessment standard 1.8 has been removed to allow candidates to focus on practical graphics skills. As a result of these changes, we have revised the assessment threshold. In this session, candidates must achieve four out of five assessment standards.

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. It is important, however, that 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	Duration
Question paper	65	1 hour 30 minutes
Assignment	40	8 hours — additional time is allowed this session if required, please see the assignment section below

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as for session 2020–21.

Question paper

We will not sample 'drawing standards, protocols and conventions' in the 2022 question paper. This modification will reduce the assessment burden on candidates, as we are reducing the marks from 80 to 65 marks, and the time allocation from 2 hours to 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Assignment

In response to stakeholder feedback, and to ensure that candidates can undertake an unseen assignment, we will issue a new assignment for session 2021–22. We will publish this in December 2021 rather than at the end of January 2022. Publishing the assignment

earlier means that candidates can start it as soon as you are satisfied that they have the knowledge to do so, and it gives more preparation time to centres.

The submission deadline for the National 5 assignment will be pushed back to the same date as the Higher assignment. The date will be confirmed in the Key Dates document.

Existing assessment conditions (the assignment must be conducted under a high degree of supervision and control) remain in place, but there are additional points of guidance:

- ◆ If a centre is temporarily closed or if candidates are isolating, they can work on the assignment from home. Where possible, you should adhere to the published conditions of assessment to maintain the reliability and validity of the evidence generated.
- ◆ Candidates can spend additional time on the assignment if necessary — for example, if a centre is temporarily closed. You should use your professional judgement to decide if additional time is necessary, as the assignment is designed to be completed in 8 hours. Spending more time on it could affect candidates' ability to cover all the learning required for the course and prepare for the question paper.

Centres must ensure that any copies of the assignment are stored securely and confidentially.

Higher

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	75	2 hours
Assignment	50	8 hours — additional time is allowed this session if required, please see the assignment section below

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as for session 2020–21.

Question paper

We will not sample 'drawing standards, protocols and conventions' in the 2022 question paper. This modification will reduce the assessment burden on candidates, as we are reducing the number of marks in the question paper from 90 to 75.

Assignment

In response to stakeholder feedback, and to ensure that candidates can undertake an unseen assignment, we will issue a new assignment for session 2021–22. We will publish this in December rather than at the end of January. Publishing the assignment earlier means that candidates can start it as soon as you are satisfied that they have the knowledge to do so, and it gives more preparation time to centres.

Existing assessment conditions (the assignment must be conducted under a high degree of supervision and control) remain in place, but there are additional new points of guidance:

- ◆ If a centre is temporarily closed or if candidates are isolating, they can work on the assignment from home. Where possible, you should adhere to the published conditions of assessment to maintain the reliability and validity of the evidence generated.

- ◆ Candidates can spend additional time on the assignment if necessary — for example, if a centre is temporarily closed. You should use your professional judgement to decide if additional time is necessary, as the assignment is designed to be completed in 8 hours. Spending more time on it could affect candidates' ability to cover all the learning required for the course and prepare for the question paper.

Centres must ensure that copies of the assignment are stored securely and confidentially.

Advanced Higher

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80	2 hours
Project	60	No fixed duration

Modifications for session 2021–22 remain the same as for session 2020–21.

Question paper

We will not sample 'graphic communication as it impacts on our environment and society' in the 2022 question paper. This topic integrates across all areas of the course; therefore there will be no questions about:

- ◆ digital rights management and/intellectual property rights
- ◆ planning where there are likely to be environmental issues; for example, specimen Q3d
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of printing technologies where environmental concerns arise; for example, substrate types and distribution

This modification will reduce the assessment burden on candidates, as we are reducing the question paper from 90 to 80 marks.

Project

We have removed the following areas from the project:

- ◆ analysing the graphic brief and research
- ◆ producing graphic specifications
- ◆ project plan preliminary planning
- ◆ evaluating the solutions and the processes

This modification allows candidates to focus on practical graphics work. It means that we are reducing the marks allocated to the project from 90 to 60, thereby releasing more time for learning and teaching, and for completing the practical graphic skills in the project.

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