

# National Course modification summary: Art and Design



## National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course assessment in session 2020–21

The Deputy First Minister has announced that National 5 exams will not take place in session 2020–21. SQA is working with stakeholders to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher and lecturer estimates.

At present, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are still planned for 2021 and this will remain under review. We continue to work with stakeholders to put contingency plans in place to respond to any changes in public health advice, or local or national lockdowns, that may result in further changes to the 2021 exam diet — including changes to the timetable.

For up-to-date information on arrangements for National Courses in session 2020–21, including timetable information and guidance on estimates, please visit our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021).

### Modifications to assessment

Following our public consultation on proposed modifications to National 5 to Advanced Higher course assessment, which closed on 24 August 2020, we are making changes to course assessment for session 2020–21. The changes detailed on the following pages are intended to support the delivery of learning and teaching, while maintaining the validity, credibility and standard of the courses.

We have published a high-level report on the outcomes of the consultation, which is available from [www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021). This includes details of the modifications to National 5 course assessment, which were planned prior to the 2021 National 5 exams being cancelled.

As a result of the modifications, we are exploring the implications for National 3 and National 4 courses, and freestanding units at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7, in session 2020–21 and will provide further guidance in due course.

### National 5 course assessment 2020–21

There will be no external assessment for National 5 courses in session 2020–21.

**Candidates will not be required to sit exams and SQA will not assess coursework.**

Instead, we are working with stakeholders to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher and lecturer estimates.

Centres need to gather evidence of candidates' attainment and use this to determine estimate grades and bands. We have published separate guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates and there is an SQA Academy course available to support teachers and lecturers.

We are also developing subject-specific guidance for teachers and lecturers on gathering evidence and producing estimates. This will include how the previously-intended National 5 modifications could be used to support with gathering evidence and producing estimates in session 2020–21. This guidance will be published from the end of October.

Details of the modifications we had previously intended to make to National 5 course assessment in session 2020–21 are included in our high-level report on the outcomes of the consultation.

To view the high-level report, and to access the guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021).

### Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	30	1 hour 15 minutes
Expressive portfolio	100	An extended period of time
Design portfolio	100	An extended period of time

#### Question paper

We will introduce further optionality into the question paper for session 2020-21. Candidates will choose to respond to either the Expressive Art Studies **or** Design Studies section. This will reduce the marks available for the question paper from 60 to 30, and the time allocation to one hour and fifteen minutes (this includes reading time as at present).

This mark will be scaled in order that the question paper remains as 23% of the course.

This change will free up learning and teaching time as it will allow centres to take a more focussed approach to exam preparation.

#### Expressive and Design portfolios

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the [Art and Design subject page](#) in due course. This guidance includes information on:

- ◆ the amount of work that candidates can submit for each stage of the portfolios
- ◆ less time-consuming approaches such as choosing a less complex theme/design brief

We will also provide an audio/visual presentation that exemplifies expressive and design portfolios, to illustrate how you can apply this guidance in practice.

This guidance should further clarify the assessment requirements and reassure centres that taking a more concise approach to the portfolios still gives candidates the opportunity to access all available marks, while offering more time for learning and teaching.

## Advanced Higher Art and Design (Expressive) course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Portfolio	100	An extended period of time

### Contextual analysis

No changes have been made to the contextual analysis. Candidates should submit their contextual analysis with their practical work as normal.

### Practical artwork

We will reduce the volume of practical work for the Expressive portfolio **from** a minimum of eight single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 16 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent) **to** a minimum of six single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 12 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent). Sketchbooks and formats smaller than A1 sheets are acceptable for this work.

This reduction in the volume of practical work will support candidates who are completing the course with limited resources and restricted time in their centre.

## Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Portfolio	100	An extended period of time

### Contextual analysis

No changes have been made to the contextual analysis. Candidates should submit their contextual analysis with their practical work as normal.

### Practical design work

We will reduce the volume of practical work for the Design portfolio **from** a minimum of eight single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 16 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent) **to** a minimum of six single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 12 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent).

This reduction in the volume of practical work will support candidates who are completing the course with limited resources and restricted time in their centre.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email [NQ2020@sqa.org.uk](mailto:NQ2020@sqa.org.uk).