

National Course modification summary: Childcare and Development



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.

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 in this document 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. This includes details of the modifications to National 5 course assessment, which were planned prior to the 2021 National 5 exams being cancelled.

Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper	40	1 hour and 30 minutes
Component 2: project	90	carried out over time

Question paper

No change.

Project

Currently candidates have a choice of three briefs on which to base their project. For session 2020–21 there will be one brief that all candidates must use. The brief that candidates must use is brief 1 — How can literacy development be supported for children and young people?

Specifying one brief for the project will allow focused learning and teaching on one area rather than on three.

Additional guidance will be published to support the implementation of this modification, including recommended theories and exemplar case studies.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email NQ2020@sqa.org.uk.