

National Course modification summary: Classical Studies



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.

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. 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 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.

Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper Classical literature	30	1 hour and 10 minutes
Component 2: question paper Classical society	50	1 hour and 50 minutes

Question paper: Classical literature

The following universal idea, theme or value **will not** be directly assessed in the Classical literature question paper for session 2020–21:

◆ **fate versus free will**

Centres can refer to page 4 of the Higher Classical Studies Course Specification for information on the four universal ideas, themes or values that might be examined.

Teachers and lecturers can deliver the course as normal. This change could free up time for focused learning, teaching and assessment.

Question paper: Classical society

The following areas in bold **will not** be assessed in the Classical society question paper for session 2020–21:

- ◆ Section 1: Life in classical Greece, Part A: Power and freedom
Delian League/Athenian empire
- ◆ Section 1: Life in classical Greece, Part B: Religion and belief
Challengers of traditional beliefs (candidates might still expect to be assessed on *Philosophical attitudes to beliefs about the dead and the afterlife, for example Plato and Democritus*)
- ◆ Section 2: Life in the Roman world, Part A: Power and freedom
Roman women
- ◆ Section 2: Life in the Roman world, Part B: Religion and belief
Mystery religions

Centres can refer to pages 4 to 8 of the Higher Classical Studies Course Specification for information on the areas that might be examined.

Teachers and lecturers can deliver the course as normal. Informing centres of areas not assessed in this question paper provides teachers and lecturers with flexibility to decide timing and depth of delivery, and any internal assessment of these themes.

Assignment

The coursework component (assignment) will be removed for session 2020–21.

Removing the assignment relieves some pressure in terms of preparation for teachers, lecturers and candidates. This will increase learning and teaching time for the other areas of the course. This approach was taken following a review of consultation feedback.

Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper	100	3 hours
Component 2: project–dissertation	50	see ‘Course assessment’ section in the Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course Specification

Question paper

Part A — Classical literature

The following texts in bold **will** be assessed in Part A — Classical literature in session 2020–21:

- ◆ Section 1: History and historiography
Questions 1, 2 and 3
 - **Herodotus, Books 1 and 7**
 - **Livy, Book 1**
 - **Tacitus, *Annals*, Book 14**

- ◆ Section 2: Individual and community
Questions 9, 10 and 11
 - **Plato, *Republic*, Books 1 and 2**
 - **Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 2**
 - **Cicero, *De Officiis (On Duties)* Book 1**

- ◆ Section 3: Heroes and heroism
Questions 17, 18 and 19
 - **Homer, *Iliad*, Book 6**
 - **Homer, *Odyssey*, Book 5**
 - **Euripides, *Trojan Women***
 - **Virgil, *Aeneid*, Book 4**

- ◆ Section 4: Comedy, satire and society
Questions 25, 26 and 27
 - **Aristophanes, *Assembly Women***
 - **Horace, *Satires*, Book 1.4**
 - **Juvenal, *Satires*, 1 and 11**

Centres should note that this does not apply to the 15-mark modern source comparison question which might be based on any of the texts or authors as detailed in the ‘Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course assessment’ section of the Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course Specification.

Teachers and lecturers can deliver the course as normal. Informing centres of which books of the prescribed classical texts will be examined in Part A — Classical literature will allow centres to focus their teaching of source analysis skills on these specific books only. This will provide teachers and lecturers with flexibility to decide timing and depth of delivery.

Centres can refer to pages 5 and 6 of the Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course Specification for more information about the prescribed texts.

Candidates should study the texts as detailed in the ‘Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course assessment’ section of the Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course Specification to prepare for Part B — Classical society.

Project–dissertation

No changes are being made to the project–dissertation at Advanced Higher level.

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