

# National Course modification summary: Design and Manufacture



## 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 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	80	2 hours 15 minutes
Assignment	77	An extended period of time

#### Question paper

No changes are being made to the question paper.

#### Assignment

Currently 5 marks are available for 'Carry out research into a given brief'.

For session 2020-21, SQA will produce this research, and include this in the published coursework assessment task, meaning that the candidates will all begin by using the research provided to complete their specification.

This will reduce the volume of work that candidates are required to produce for their Assignment. Candidates spend a lot of time on research therefore providing it for them it will free up learning and teaching time.

Currently 8 marks are available for 'Demonstrating practical modelling skills'.

Due to the difficulty that schools are having in providing candidates with access to workshops, we will remove this requirement from the Assignment for session 2020-21.

In total, these changes will reduce the marks available for this component in session 2020-21 from 90 to 77.

## Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	65	2 hours 15 minutes
Assignment	108	An extended period of time

### Question paper

We will introduce optionality into Section 1 of the question paper. Candidates will respond to either question 1 (product analysis) or question 2 (product evolution). This will reduce the marks available in the QP in session 2020-21 from 80 to 65 and free up learning and teaching time.

### Assignment

Currently 12 marks are available for 'Manufacturing a presentation model'.

Due to the difficulty that schools are having in providing candidates with access to workshops, we will remove this requirement for session 2020-21.

This will reduce the marks available for this component in session 2020-21 from 120 to 108.

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