

National Course modification summary: Engineering Science



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.

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	110	2 hours and 30 minutes

Question paper

There is no change to the question paper for session 2020–21.

As we cannot restrict content, and changing the duration of the assessment does not benefit teachers and lecturers, we have removed the assignment (coursework), leaving the question paper unchanged.

Assignment

We are removing the assignment (coursework) for session 2020–21.

This will create more time for learning and teaching. All course content must still be delivered, however teachers and lecturers can concentrate on the question paper, as this best reflects the ethos of this qualification.

Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper	75	2 hours and 30 minutes

Question paper

There is no change to the question paper for session 2020–21.

As we cannot restrict content, and changing the duration of the assessment does not benefit teachers and lecturers, we have removed the project, leaving the question paper unchanged.

Project

We are removing the project for session 2020–21.

Keeping this component is not a practical option, due to the external work required for the project. Removing the project will create more time for learning and teaching. All course content must still be delivered, however teachers and lecturers can concentrate on the question paper.

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