

# National Course modification summary: Gàidhlig



## 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
Component 1: question paper 1 Leughadh (Reading)	30	1 hour and 50 minutes
Component 2: question paper 1 Litreachas (Literature)	20	
Component 3: question paper 2 Èisteachd (Listening)	20	40 minutes approximately
Component 5: Còmhradh (performance–talking)	30	10 minutes

#### Component 4: Obair shònraichte–sgriobhadh (assignment–writing)

This coursework component will be removed from the course assessment for session 2020–21. This will reduce the overall number of course assessment marks by 20.

Removing the assignment–writing removes 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.

There will be more opportunities for candidates to develop the skills of reading, literary analysis and listening in general class activities or when practising the techniques and time-management skills of assessment.

Teachers and lecturers will have increased time to focus on the skill of talking, and will have greater preparation time for the performance–talking. Teachers and lecturers will not need to:

- ◆ explain the process and conditions of assessment of the assignment–writing and how to apply an improvement code or equivalent feedback process
- ◆ annotate candidates' first drafts of the assignment–writing
- ◆ set aside time during drafting of the assignment–writing to ensure that it is the candidate's own work
- ◆ organise and package the assignments for submission to SQA

## Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper: Sgrùdadh (Practical Criticism)	30	1 hour and 30 minutes
Component 2: question paper: Litreachas (Literature)	20	1 hour
Component 3: question paper: Eadar-theangachadh (Translating)	15	30 minutes
Component 4: Còmhradh (performance–talking)	30	20 minutes approximately

### Component 2: question paper 2 Litreachas (Literature)

For session 2020–21, this question paper will be modified to remove the ‘Sgrìobhadh’ (Writing) element. The time will reduce to 1 hour and the marks will reduce to 20.

The overall mark for course assessment will be 95 marks for session 2020–21.

This modification will mean increased learning and teaching time for other areas of the course. There will be more opportunities for candidates to develop the skills of reading, literary analysis and translation in general class activities or when practising the techniques and time-management skills of assessment.

The removal of the ‘Sgrìobhadh’ (Writing) element will provide teachers and lecturers with increased time to focus on the skill of talking and will provide greater preparation time for the performance–talking.

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