

National Course modification summary: Photography



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.

Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	30	1 hour
Project	100	An extended period of time

Question paper

There have been no changes made to the question paper component for session 2020-21.

Project

We have reduced the number of final images that candidates must produce from 12 to 8. Candidates must produce development work that leads them to their final images. Reducing the number of final images required reduces the amount of development work for candidates and, therefore, the amount of time spent on assessment.

We are also providing the following guidance to support centres in their approach to the Project:

Equipment

You should remind candidates that they can:

- ◆ use mobile phone and/or tablet cameras for the Higher Photography project.
- ◆ download camera and editing apps to give them more control than pre-installed camera apps. They can check phone or app settings to ensure that images are captured and stored at an acceptable resolution for printing.

Topic

Some topics take more time than others. For example, topics based on landscape photography frequently require fewer photoshoots, so can be less time consuming than others, such as still life.

Investigative research

There is no requirement for candidates to provide notes or comments/annotations on their research images. If there is a clear relevance to the candidate's chosen topic then the images on their own can access the full range of marks.

Body of work

Candidates do not need to take a large number of images for each photoshoot or idea. Instead, they could take fewer, more focused images that demonstrate a range of techniques, compositions, or ideas.

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