

# National Course modification summary: Physical Education



## 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
Question Paper	50	2 hours and 30 minutes
Performance	30 – scaled to 50	Dependent on appropriate length of time required to assess the chosen activity

#### Question Paper

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the [Physical Education subject page](#) in due course. This guidance is for the following areas of mandatory content:

- ◆ key planning information — interpretation of qualitative and quantitative information to allow identification of strengths and prioritise areas for development
- ◆ recording, monitoring, and evaluating performance development

#### Performance

The course assessment task has been modified to assess candidates' ability to effectively perform in one physical activity instead of two.

By reducing the assessment burden, teachers and lecturers will have more time for teaching and learning, and to prepare candidates for a single performance. We encourage centres to continue to offer a range of activities enabling candidates to develop a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills. This allows candidates to apply the knowledge and understanding of the factors that impact on performance in physical activities when answering the question paper.

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the [Physical Education subject page](#) in due course. This guidance is for the assessment item 'Extent to which rules and regulations are followed and etiquette is displayed (including working with others)'.

## Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Project	70	Completed over course of 2020-21
Performance	30	Dependent on appropriate length of time required to assess the chosen activity

### Project

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the [Physical Education subject page](#) in due course. This guidance is for Stages 1 and 4 of the project.

### Performance

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the [Physical Education subject page](#) in due course. This guidance is for assessment item 'Extent to which rules and regulations are followed and etiquette is displayed (including working with others)'.

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