



English Assignment (National 4) Added Value

SCQF: level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H23Y 74

Unit outline

This is the added value unit for the National 4 English course. The aim of this unit is to enable learners to provide evidence of added value for the National 4 English course through the successful completion of an assignment that allows them to demonstrate their language skills in the contexts of language, literature or media. This assignment allows the learner to demonstrate challenge and application.

Learners who complete this unit will be able to:

- 1 Apply language skills to investigate a selected text(s)

This unit is a mandatory unit of the National 4 English course and is also available as a freestanding unit. Please read this unit specification in conjunction with the course support notes, which provide advice and guidance on delivery and assessment approaches. Exemplification of the standards in this unit is given in unit assessment support.

Recommended entry

Entry to this unit is at the discretion of the centre. Learners should be in the process of completing, or have completed, the following units in the National 4 English course:

- ◆ English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)
- ◆ English: Creation and Production (National 4)
- ◆ Literacy (National 4)

Equality and inclusion

This unit is designed to be as fair and as accessible as possible with no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs is available on the [assessment arrangements web page](#).

For further information, please refer to the course support notes.

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

1 Apply language skills to investigate a selected text(s) by:

- 1.1 Demonstrating understanding of a straightforward text(s)
- 1.2 Analysing and evaluating a straightforward text(s)
- 1.3 Presenting findings in a critical essay or oral presentation
- 1.4 Discussing a straightforward text(s)

Evidence requirements for the unit

This unit will be assessed internally by the teacher or lecturer.

For this unit, learners must provide evidence of:

- ◆ reading: demonstrating understanding, analysis and evaluation of a straightforward text(s)
- ◆ writing or talking: using straightforward language in a critical essay or oral presentation
- ◆ talking and listening: contributing to a discussion

Evidence can be gathered holistically for the unit(s) or for the course as a whole by combining assessment through integrated activities.

The assessment method for this unit is an assignment in which the learner will apply their language skills to investigate a selected text(s).

The assignment is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines described below
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence is internally assessed by teachers and lecturers in each centre in line with SQA guidelines.

All assessment is subject to quality assurance by SQA.

Setting the assessment

The assignment is set by centres within the following guidelines:

- ◆ learners must study one text (or texts)
- ◆ the text(s) can be prose fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, web pages, film or TV
- ◆ learners must undertake the assignment after they have studied the text(s)

The assignment has two parts, and learners must complete both.

Part 1

Demonstrate understanding, analysis and evaluation of a selected text(s) by responding in one of two ways:

- ◆ write a critical essay of between 600 to 800 words
- Or
- ◆ give an oral presentation of approximately 5 minutes

The response must include:

- ◆ using your own words as far as possible, summarise the main points of the text(s), or part of a longer text
- ◆ by referring to examples, explain how the writer has used language effectively

Please see [‘Further information on Course coverage for the National 4 English Course’](#) section for guidance.

Part 2

Contribute to a group discussion, or discussion-based activity, on a topic related to the selected text(s).

- ◆ the teacher or lecturer provides instructions for this part of the assignment, which may include a list of questions, tasks and/or prompts

Conducting the assessment

The assignment is conducted under some supervision and control. This will take the form of the following:

- ◆ learners, in discussion with their teacher or lecturer, must select and study one text (or texts)
- ◆ the assignment must be conducted under some supervision and control. This means that, although learners may complete part of the work outwith the learning and teaching situation, teachers or lecturers must put in place processes for monitoring progress to ensure that the work is the learner's own, and that plagiarism has not taken place
- ◆ this need not entail formal, timed, and closely supervised conditions, but at all stages of the preparation for, and the production of the piece, there must be careful monitoring to ensure that it is entirely the learner's own work

Judging the evidence

Evidence is internally marked and verified by teachers and lecturers in each centre in line with SQA guidelines.

All assessment is subject to quality assurance by SQA.

Re-assessment

In relation to unit assessment, SQA's guidance on re-assessment for units applies.

Further information is provided in the unit assessment support pack. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the course support notes.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

Refer to the course specification for information on skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Further information on course coverage for the National 4 English course

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the National 4 English course. Assessment of this added value unit will involve selecting appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding from those listed below, in line with the evidence requirements above. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding provides the basis for the assessment of all the units in the course.

Knowledge of language

- ◆ straightforward conventions of written language (for example straightforward vocabulary, sentence structure and paragraphing)
- ◆ straightforward conventions of spoken language (for example straightforward language choice, communicating meaning at first hearing, using aspects of non-verbal communication)

Knowledge of language, literature and/or media contexts

Learners should demonstrate knowledge of language, literature and/or media contexts as appropriate.

Prose fiction or Drama

Effective use of:

- ◆ point of view or perspective (which voice or voices do we hear, and what difference does this make?)
- ◆ characters (and reactions to them)
- ◆ conflict between characters
- ◆ key incidents (for example the beginning, ending, moments of tension)
- ◆ setting
- ◆ stage directions (for Drama)

Poetry

Effective use of:

- ◆ point of view or perspective (which voice or voices do we hear, and what difference does this make?)
- ◆ word choice
- ◆ imagery and/or metaphor
- ◆ rhyme and/or structure
- ◆ setting

Non-fiction and/or web pages

Effective use of:

- ◆ point of view or perspective (which voice or voices do we hear, and what difference does this make?)
- ◆ statistics and/or examples
- ◆ headings and/or subheadings
- ◆ repetition
- ◆ bullet points and/or lists
- ◆ questions and/or sentence structure
- ◆ persuasive techniques
- ◆ personal experience
- ◆ humour

Film or TV

Effective use of:

- ◆ point of view or perspective (which voice or voices do we hear, and what difference does this make?)
- ◆ characters (and reactions to them)
- ◆ key incidents (for example the beginning, ending, moments of tension)
- ◆ conflict between characters
- ◆ setting
- ◆ camera
- ◆ mise-en-scène
- ◆ sound and/or music

Administrative information

Published: May 2024 (version 2.0)

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Assessment standards clarified.	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013
2.0	Updated to reflect new outcome and assessment standards.	Qualifications Manager	May 2024

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