



Alternative Certification Model 2020–21: National QA Exercise Key Messages

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| Subject | Health and Food Technology |
| Level | National 5 |

This report provides information on themes emerging from the national quality assurance exercise, which is part of the Alternative Certification Model for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

A sample of candidates' assessed work from selected centres was reviewed to determine whether assessment was in line with the national standard. The evidence submitted may have been partial or incomplete and is unlikely to have represented all of the evidence that will be gathered to allow the centre to determine a provisional result.

The centres selected for review in this subject and at this level have been provided with specific feedback on the evidence that they submitted. The comments below highlight key points about the assessment approaches and instruments used and the sampled centres' assessment judgements, for all centres delivering the subject at this level to reflect upon and make any appropriate adjustments.

Section 1: Comments on approach to assessment

Centres submitted partial evidence from a variety of assessments, covering the question paper and assignment. All approaches to assessment were in accordance with SQA's subject-specific guidance on key evidence for determining provisional results.

Question paper

Most centres used the SQA 2021 question paper. A few centres created their own question paper using a range of SQA past papers, and these generally had appropriate course coverage and level of demand. However, there were instances where centre-devised question papers did not include sufficient grade A marks. This meant they were not at an appropriate level of demand and there was insufficient opportunity to differentiate candidate attainment. However, centres using these resources commented that these papers had been used as initial assessments and that the 2021 question paper would also be used to inform provisional results.

Assignment

Evidence of the assignment was mainly from the 2021 assignment assessment resource.

In most cases, evidence submitted included comments from assessors, and other relevant supporting evidence that showed the basis on which assessment judgements had been made. It was clear that where evidence of centre and local moderation processes was provided, it was usually thorough, helpful and effective, with clear evidence of robust discussion and amended marks allocated where appropriate.

Section 2: Comments on assessment judgement

In most cases, centres applied the marking instructions accurately and consistently, in line with national standards.

There were, however, instances in the question paper evidence where marking was lenient. This was usually where marks were awarded for answers that did not contain the level of detail required by the marking instructions. In questions that ask for explanation, care should be taken not to reward candidates providing simple descriptions, rather than explanations. The requirements for questions that ask candidates to 'explain' are contained in the marking instructions. This is important when making assessment judgements, to ensure marks are awarded appropriately.

The assignment evidence was mostly marked to national standards. However, it should be noted that in section 1c, product ideas should be fully described rather than briefly described. Examples can be found in the Understanding Standards materials.

The quality of the marking commentary provided by centres to support their assessment decisions was high and centres are commended for this.

The majority of centres provided evidence of both centre and local moderation. This was robust and informative and demonstrated good practice.