



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

Subject	Geography
Level	Advanced Higher

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

Most centres submitted at least two pieces of evidence for each candidate. These included permutations of the following:

- ◆ Question 1 from an SQA question paper, worth 30 marks
- ◆ Question 2 from an SQA question paper, worth 20 marks
- ◆ an SQA coursework assessment task — a geographical study, either completed or partially completed
- ◆ an SQA coursework assessment task — a geographical issue, either completed or partially completed

Some centres adapted SQA questions effectively.

All the evidence reviewed related to the subject-specific guidance on key pieces of evidence.

The validity of assessment used by centres was robust and in line with national standards.

Section 2: Comments on assessment judgements

The assessment judgements, for all the centres that were reviewed, were valid and reliable and in line with national standards.

The following good practice was observed:

- ◆ assessment judgements were accurate, fair and consistent
- ◆ evidence of effective and often detailed moderation procedures that were robust and supportive
- ◆ evidence of how assessment judgements had been made, often with the effective use of helpful comments, annotations and marking grids. This good practice will be particularly useful in supporting candidates with performance feedback and self-evaluation