



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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Graphic Communication</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>Advanced Higher</b>

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 used the SQA 2021 NQ assessment resources, with some centres devising their own assessments using a range of SQA past papers.

The majority of centres submitted evidence based on the 2021 question paper (or a section of it). Others submitted evidence from the coursework assessment task. Of these centres, most chose to submit a section of the project, for example the CVMG graphic solution (printed media). Where sections of the project or question paper were submitted, most centres explained what other evidence would be used to award provisional grades.

## Section 2: Comments on assessment judgements

In general, centres applied consistent assessment judgement across all candidates. Where question paper evidence was submitted, the vast majority of candidates were assessed accurately, fairly and consistently, in accordance with national standards. Where project evidence was submitted, the centres' assessment judgements, on the whole, were accurate. However, there were instances where marking instructions had been applied too leniently. This was most often apparent in assessing the CVMG graphic solution, and particularly digital media solutions. Centres should be aware of this when making their own assessment judgements.

It is important to highlight the excellent evidence submitted by some centres that demonstrated creative use of graphic techniques and effective use of a range of design software in fulfilling the project requirements. This is a real testament to candidates and centres. It was evident that centres had made use of guidance documents and Understanding Standards support materials.

We recommend that centres note the following:

- ◆ Print-based media solutions — should be print-ready solutions with appropriate annotation or commentary. For example, a graphic of the printed item that includes appropriate cropmarks, registration marks (colour bars, densitometer bars, bleed areas) and information on colour space.
- ◆ Digital solutions — should include relevant annotation, for example commentary on file types, colour space, colour details and transitions. Without this information it is impossible to conclude the solution 'serves its purpose on all occasions'.
- ◆ Technical graphic solutions — centres are encouraged to set up a template to BS 8888, including appropriate line weights, so candidates can best demonstrate modelling techniques and assembly, and technical detail. Candidates should also state what modelling technique they have demonstrated in the technical graphic. An explanation of how it was used would also be helpful, for example, 'these sections show the shapes and dimensions of the profiles used to create the loft.'

The vast majority of centres provided clear commentaries on how marks were awarded. In most cases, these commentaries formed the basis of centre moderation processes, which were thorough, detailed and effective. There was also evidence of effective moderation procedures between neighbouring centres and/or across local authorities.