



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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Photography</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>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 submitted evidence of one component for each candidate, however, some centres provided evidence of both question paper and project components for each candidate.

Evidence submitted for the question paper was mostly complete, while project evidence was mostly incomplete. Centres clearly indicated which aspects of the project had not been attempted at the point their evidence was submitted.

### **Component 1: question paper**

The majority of centres made effective use of the SQA 2021 NQ question paper and marking instructions.

A few centres created their own question paper assessment which replicated the approach, level of demand and structure of SQA assessments.

Centre-devised questions generally sampled a range of content from the course specification. In most instances, the questions used in these papers were appropriately adapted from SQA past papers and/or specimen question paper.

Images selected for section 2: analysis were generally well-chosen, allowing candidates to respond to a wide variety of technical and creative elements.

Marking instructions for centre-generated question paper assessments were generally accurate and in line with national standards.

Some centres did not include marking instructions as part of their evidence submission. Accurate and detailed marking instructions should always be used when applying assessment judgements, as they allow marks to be awarded consistently.

### **Component 2: project**

All centres made use of the SQA coursework assessment task and marking instructions.

Most centres provided evidence which had been produced electronically, using a variety of platforms such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Some candidate evidence had been produced traditionally and scanned for submission.

Candidate responses were clearly presented, in a logical and meaningful way.

Generally, most candidates selected a topic that was appropriate for this assessment. Candidates selected a range of genres and styles and tackled their theme with enthusiasm and creativity.

Candidates made effective use of mobile phone cameras, editing apps and online programmes to produce and edit (where appropriate) their own images.

## **Section 2: Comments on assessment judgements**

Some centres demonstrated consistent and accurate assessment judgements across both components, which were in line with national standards. However, some centre assessment judgements were lenient for both question paper and project components.

Most centres submitted evidence of assessors' comments and other relevant supporting evidence that showed clearly the basis on which assessment judgements had been made.

Detailed checklists and observation notes were employed effectively by most centres and there was clear evidence that centre and local authority moderation had taken place.

There was clear evidence of collegiality across subject networks and local authorities. This network of support has encouraged the sharing of standards and good practice.

### **Component 1: question paper**

Centres that used the SQA 2021 NQ question paper as their key piece of evidence made effective use of the marking instructions.

Most centres' assessment judgements for section 1: multiple choice were in line with national standards.

Most centres were lenient in their assessment judgements for question 11. This question requires the candidate to 'explain' meaning, and they must demonstrate an understanding of 'cause and effect' in relation to the image in question. Marks were often awarded for descriptive or generic statements which often did not relate to the image.

Most centres were lenient in their assessment judgements for question 12. This question requires the candidate to 'discuss' meaning, and they must demonstrate an understanding of 'cause and effect with valid justification'. Candidates were often awarded marks for providing a description of the image or listing creative and technical elements with no valid justification.

### **Component 2: project**

Some centres applied the marking instructions for the SQA coursework assessment task consistently and in line with national standards. However, some were lenient in their application of the marking instructions.

This was particularly evident in candidates' research of photographers and their influences, where marks were awarded for biographical information which did not explain the impact of influence identified on the chosen work.

Candidates have been supported and encouraged to engage in a wide range of topics and have engaged fully with the assessment task across the majority of centres.