



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

Subject	Environmental Science
Level	N5

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

The majority of centres selected submitted one assessment, with questions that replicated the format and structure of a National 5 Environmental Science exam.

The evidence submitted ranged from assessments carried out using unit assessment support packs, to the full SQA 2020–21 paper, split into a number of sections to aid flexibility.

All centres that submitted partial evidence indicated that, once they had covered all of the course content, they intended to use the SQA 2020–21 paper to generate evidence of demonstrated attainment.

Section 2: Comments on assessment judgements

The accuracy and consistency of marking for all selected centres was in line with national standards. Procedures for cross-marking scripts had been carried out proficiently.

Good practice was evidenced by inter-centre moderation. Discussions regarding the awarding of marks had clearly taken place and decisions had been applied effectively.