

Technical consultation on proposed further modifications to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama performance for session 2020–21



November 2020

We recognise the impact that COVID-19 has had, and will continue to have, on learning and teaching. To address this, we are proposing further modifications for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama performance. The modifications aim to support greater opportunities for learning and teaching, while maintaining the validity of these qualifications.

The purpose of this technical consultation is to gather feedback from practitioners on the proposed modifications and to determine how they might work in practice. In the interests of openness and transparency we welcome responses from a wide range of stakeholders.

We will consider the responses we receive when we make decisions about further modifications to course assessment in 2021. After the consultation, we will publish:

- ◆ a modification summary for National 5 to Advanced Higher for session 2020–21
- ◆ revised guidance on gathering key evidence for producing estimates for National 5 in session 2020–21

The consultation should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and will close on 3 December 2020.

Arrangements for Higher and Advanced Higher performance assessments in session 2020–21

Candidates' performances are normally assessed by an SQA visiting assessor who attends the school or college in person. However, given current public health advice and the protective measures that are in place across the country, it will not be possible for visiting assessment to take place as normal this session.

For session 2020–21, teachers and lecturers will be required to internally assess the Higher and Advanced Higher Drama performances, in line with SQA marking instructions. This will be supported by external quality assurance from SQA. If your centre is selected for verification, you will be asked to provide SQA with video recordings of candidates' performances to enable us to quality assure the marking.

Centres will be required to submit their Drama performance marks to SQA no earlier than the end of April 2021.

Drama performance restrictions

When you select a text to use in the performance, and in your direction of the actors, you must consider if candidates will have the opportunity to maintain suitable physical distance when they perform.

We acknowledge the difficulties and restrictions you have in teaching, learning and assessment this session when complying with government guidance, for example voice projection, wearing a face covering and physical distancing.

You should use your professional judgement when assessing candidates for performance. Candidates must not be penalised for adhering to current government guidelines.

National 5 Drama proposals

Acting

Groups should be as small as possible to minimise physical interaction between candidates. There should be no more than five actors in each performance.

The table below contains the proposed timings for scenes involving different numbers of actors.

Number of actors	Proposed timing (minutes)
2	6 to 8
3	9 to 12
4	12 to 16
5	15 to 20

Production roles

If a candidate is unable to realise any of the practical aspects of a production role, they can use plans, diagrams, working drawings, photographs, videos, folios and/or research to demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the detailed marking instructions.

Costume

For assessment in session 2020–21, candidates must produce detailed costume designs and a costume list for all characters. They should also create or adapt one costume according to size, style and character **or** produce an annotated design showing how they would make or adapt one costume according to size, style and character. Candidates must label, maintain and store costumes effectively and carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how costumes would be labelled, maintained and stored effectively, and how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Lighting

For assessment in session 2020–21, candidates must produce a lighting cue sheet that is accurate in terms of light intensity, cues, duration and types of lighting changes. They should also produce a detailed lighting plot. The lighting rig candidates use must consist of a

minimum of eight lanterns. Candidates must design and use a minimum of five lighting cues (reduced from seven) and three states (reduced from five) in the lighting plot. Candidates should carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Props

For assessment in session 2020–21, candidates must use a minimum of six different props (reduced from eight) from two of the three areas of personal, pre-set or hand props. They must design and create one fully functional prop to use in the performance **or** produce a detailed account of how they would design and create one fully functional prop to use in the performance. Candidates should label and store props effectively, and organise the props table efficiently and carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how props would be stored effectively and organised on the props table, and how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Set design

For assessment in session 2020–21, candidates should produce working designs and plans for the set, including elevations, that are appropriate to the text. They must also produce detailed ground plans. Candidates should carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Sound

For assessment in session 2020–21, candidates must produce a sound cue sheet detailing volume, duration and type. They must source and edit music and effects and provide a back-up plan **or** produce an account of how they would source and edit music and effects and provide a back-up plan. Candidates must include a minimum of four different sound effects (reduced from six) and six sound cues (reduced from eight) in their sound design. Candidates should carry out pre-show checks **or** produce evidence of how they would carry out pre-show checks.

Make-up and hair

Candidates should only be offered the opportunity to choose make-up and hair in session 2020–21 if government health advice allows. Alternatively, we recommend that you do not offer candidates this option.

Higher Drama proposals

Performance

Acting

In session 2020–21, we suggest reducing number of interactive roles candidates are assessed on from two to one.

Groups should be as small as possible to minimise physical interaction between candidates. There should be no more than three actors in each performance.

The table below contains the proposed timings if candidates are being assessed in one interactive role.

Number of actors	Proposed timing (minutes)
2	8 to 12
3	11 to 13
4	13 to 16

The marks awarded for one interactive role would be doubled to achieve a mark out of 50.

Preparation for Performance will remain approximately 500 words and focus on only one interactive acting role.

Directing

Directors should direct no more than three actors.

Candidates should direct a rehearsal lasting approximately 25 to 30 minutes.

Designing

No changes suggested.

Advanced Higher proposals

Performance

Acting

Suggested amendments to timings for one interactive piece:

- ◆ Groups should be as small as possible to minimise physical interaction between candidates. There should be no more than three actors in each performance.
- ◆ Each candidate should make a maximum acting contribution of 17 minutes.
- ◆ The monologue should remain approximately 3 minutes.

Directing

Candidates should direct a rehearsal lasting approximately 30 to 35 minutes.

Directors should direct no more than three candidates.

Designing

No changes suggested.

To take part in the consultation, complete the survey [here](#).