



# National Qualifications 2020-21: Initial Overview

Working within SQA guidelines, it is clear that internal assessments carried out this year during class time in school will play a key part in providing evidence. Teachers will use these to make reliable judgements of attainment for individual pupils in the graded courses (A-D) as detailed below.

## National 5

## Higher / Adv Higher

There are no National 5 SQA external exams or coursework submissions this year. Grades **will be** awarded this year according to **teacher judgements** which will be based on a range of evidence. These judgements will be quality assured. Modifications to courses have been published for subject areas, accessible through the [SQA website](#).

**H/AH Exams are scheduled** to take place as normal between 13th May and 4th June 2021. Completion of coursework is still required in some subjects however many have been modified by SQA. Modifications have been published for specific subject areas and can be accessed through the [SQA website](#).

### Evidence to be gathered

assessment resources will include:

- Holistic assessments ('prelim' type activity)
- Internal assessments (class tests)
- Coursework
- Homework

### Contingency arrangements

Should teachers be asked to provide attainment judgements in the event of exams being removed for H or AH courses then we will rely on the same evidence gathering as outlined for N5 courses.



### Predictive strength of evidence

SQA advise that the focus should be on **Quality** of evidence rather than Quantity. The strongest evidence of attainment will come from performance in the Holistic Assessments and Internal assessments completed under controlled conditions in school.

Students will complete holistic assessments (prelim type activity) in classrooms this session and undertake class assessments at appropriate times to provide indicators of progress in knowledge and understanding within courses in preparation for sitting the final externally assessed exam.

### The year ahead

For all students sitting certificated courses this session whether it be N5, Higher or Advanced Higher, it is crucial that all must give their best efforts to maximise achievement in all of the assessment opportunities provided across the whole school year.

The assessment resources described above provide opportunities for all to shine and for a holistic judgement to be made by teachers, where required, of each individual students level of achievement in any course.

Click images to  
access these  
sites:



# Bathgate Academy Learner Evidence Journey 2020-21.



This visual sets out how our learner evidence journey is compiled.



1

## SQA advice

Focus on **Quality** of evidence rather than Quantity. Evidence should be gathered for all levels of course across the year (N5, H and AH).



2

## Gathering evidence

Evidence will come from:  
 Holistic assessments ('prelim' type activity)  
 Internal assessments (class tests)  
 Coursework  
 Homework



3

## Holistic Assessment

The strongest evidence of attainment will come from performance in holistic assessments ('prelim' type activity) completed under controlled conditions in class (December & April/May tbc.).



4

## Internal Assessment

Internal assessments such as class tests, A/B tests etc, completed under controlled conditions in class provide strong supplementary evidence (Ongoing, at suitable times across the year).



5

## Coursework

In some subject areas, particularly practical subjects where there is less reliance on an end of course exam, coursework can make up a large part of the overall assessment judgement. In this case, projects undertaken, folio's completed etc. across the year will be assessed by class teachers at the end of each course.



6

## Homework/classwork.

Naturally occurring evidence may be gathered across the year to further support teaching staff in making holistic judgements on the attainment of individual pupils within each course.



7

## Attainment judgements made

Utilising all sources of evidence and the weightings provided to them by SQA, teachers/departments produce attainment judgements where required



9

## Estimates submitted to SQA

Dates to be confirmed by SQA



8

## Judgements Quality Assured

Agreement on attainment judgements and rank orders for the cohort reached and signed-off by Principal Teacher, DHT and HT. Considerations made for extenuating circumstances

# SQA Assessment Timeline 2020-21

Following guidance from SQA, Bathgate Academy has identified the following sources of evidence as crucial in supporting teachers to make accurate and fair judgements of grades achieved by pupils in N5/H/AH certificated courses this year where required. SQA have indicated that the evidence provided from engaging in these assessment hold different weightings, with assessments held under strict exam conditions providing the most reliable indicator of performance



1

## Holistic Assessments

- **In class holistic assessments:**  
This year all pupils will have 2 opportunities to sit formal assessments under controlled SQA exam conditions.
- **When:**  
Holistic Assessment window 1: **November 30th - December 17th.**  
Holistic Assessment window 2: **April/May 2021 - to be confirmed.**
- **How:**  
Assessment takes place during class time. Departments will provide further information on content covered by assessments. Pupils will know when these assessments will occur within each window.



2

## Internal Assessments

- **Class tests, A/B tests:**  
These assessments cover shorter pieces of work and therefore hold lower weighting as evidence for SQA judgements.
- **When:**  
Assessments **can be undertaken at any point across the year** when units of work have been completed and teachers feel pupils have been well prepared
- **How:**  
Assessment takes place during class time at teacher's discretion. Teachers will provide pupils at least 1 weeks notice of upcoming assessments.



3

## Coursework

- **Project work:** In some subjects, pupils are required to complete practically based project work. Where this is the case, staff will work closely with pupils to support them to produce the strongest possible evidence for achievement.
- **Folio work:** In some subjects, pupils are required to complete folios / write essays to evidence their knowledge and understanding.
- **When:**  
**Ongoing across the year**
- **How:**  
In class time or at home dependant on SQA guidelines.



4

## Homework/Classwork

- **Preparatory work:**  
**Work** undertaken throughout the year in school will be supplemented with any work undertaken digitally as a result of Covid-19 circumstances. This may have some influence on attainment judgements made by teachers at the end of each course.
- **When:**  
**Ongoing across the year**
- **How:**  
Pupils will build evidence of work overtaken in their coursework jotters. Digital records will be kept by pupils via teams of evidence they have produced.



Holistic assessments: November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

This year all pupils in S4-6 will sit two holistic assessments for each course under formal exam conditions. As you should already be aware, the first diet of these assessments will take place during the last three weeks of term.

Due to COVID restrictions, these assessments will take place in your usual classrooms during your normal period times. Since these are formal assessments, the conditions in the classroom will be the same as those in SQA exams. This means that you should arrive on time, have all of the equipment needed and hand in your phone to your class teacher. Your phone cannot be used as a calculator.

Your class teachers have added the dates and times for your assessments on Show My Homework. If you are unable to login to Show My Homework, please filter by teacher name to see this information. We have tried our best to avoid anyone having more than two exams in one day. If there is a day where you have three exams timetabled, please speak with your teachers to arrange an alternative time for one of the assessments.

*Educating the whole person, in a spirit of enquiry, to judge wisely, act fairly and live well.*





SENIOR PHASE HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT DIET 1: INFORMATION AND PLANNING SHEETS.

Time		Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Wed. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec
S C H O L	Period 1							
	Period 2							
	Period 3							
	Period 4							
	Period 5							
	Period 6							
	Period 7							
	4:00pm							
	5:00pm							
	6:00pm							
	7:00pm							
	8:00pm							
	9:00pm							

**Don't be over ambitious – break work down into small chunks. Assess how familiar you are with each topic and focus on your weak areas. Take breaks, do short (45 minute) sessions often and include fun stuff / rewards – that way you are more likely to stick to your timetable.**

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## SENIOR PHASE HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT DIET 1: INFORMATION AND PLANNING SHEETS.

Time		Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wed. 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec
S C H O L	Period 1							
	Period 2							
	Period 3							
	Period 4							
	Period 5							
	Period 6							
	Period 7							
	4:00pm							
	5:00pm							
	6:00pm							
	7:00pm							
	8:00pm							
	9:00pm							

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## SENIOR PHASE HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT DIET 1: INFORMATION AND PLANNING SHEETS.

Time		Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wed. 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
S C H O O L	Period 1					
	Period 2					
	Period 3					
	Period 4					
	Period 5					
	Period 6					
	Period 7					
	4:00pm					
	5:00pm					
	6:00pm					
	7:00pm					
	8:00pm					
	9:00pm					

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