

# National Qualifications 2021

NASUWT

11 March 2021



# Work to date

- Modifications to assessment requirements following consultation: recognising disruption to learning and maximising learning and teaching
- Publication of National 5 (pre-Christmas), Higher and Advanced Higher (post-Christmas) subject-specific guidance and assessment materials following cancellation of exams
- Extensive programme of Understanding Standards materials and online events
- Demonstrated attainment at the heart of the alternative certification model (ACM)
- Publication of revised co-created alternative certification model for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher including roles & responsibilities and impact assessments for Equalities and Children's Rights & Wellbeing

# Work to date (continued)

- Joint communications throughout from National Qualifications 2021 Group, with tailored messaging for parents/carers and learners
- Appeals review underway, with public consultation this month
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement including learner panel
- Ongoing liaison with professional associations – NASUWT, SSTA, EIS, SLS, SCIS and subject associations





# Alternative certification model 2021

## Stage 1

Ongoing until April 2021

Teachers and lecturers access subject specific guidance, assessment resources and Understanding Standards materials and webinars from SQA.

## Stage 2

From April to May 2021

School, college and local authority quality assurance continues. During May, SQA requests, reviews and provides feedback on samples of assessment evidence from each school and college.

## Stage 3

End of May to 25 June 2021

Schools, colleges, local authorities and SQA work through final stages of local and national quality assurance and feedback to reach provisional results that are consistent, impartial and fair.

## Stage 4

By 25 June 2021

Schools and colleges submit quality assured provisional results to SQA.

## Stage 5

Appeals process

Appeals process for 2020-21 - to be advised following consultation.



# Alternative certification model - roles and responsibilities

- Sets out responsibilities for SQA, teachers/lecturers, centre senior managers, local authorities, SCIS, Education Scotland between now and 25 June to ensure provisional results are robust and credible
- Co-created with key partners: the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES), Colleges Scotland, Education Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), School Leaders Scotland (SLS), the Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS), Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the Scottish Government, National Parent Forum of Scotland, and the Scottish Youth Parliament.
- Shared responsibility for communicating the ACM and securing stakeholder buy in and public confidence



# Quality Assurance prior to the submission of provisional results

- Understanding Standards programme exemplifies national standards in each National Course, ensuring practitioner understanding and consistent application of national standards to learner assessment evidence
- All provisional results are based on quality assured evidence of demonstrated attainment
- Assessment evidence is quality assured both locally and nationally by centres, local authorities, Education Scotland and SQA
- National quality assurance to involve a proportionate selection of assessment evidence from every centre in May, with feedback to centres and key messages to all centres for each National Course
- Provisional results submitted by 25 June 2021



# Key dates for ACM national quality assurance

- **Early May:** centres advised of course selections
- **Mid-May:** uplift of a small quantity of quality assured assessment evidence from centres for each course, digital submissions will be accepted
- **May-June:** SQA senior appointees review centre evidence and prepare centre feedback and national key themes report
- **Early June:** all feedback to centres
- **June:** centres adjust their assessment of candidate evidence in the light of feedback, where appropriate
- **25 June:** deadline for submission of provisional results
- **Post-25 June:** SQA undertakes admin checks on provisional results eg chase missing results



# Key considerations

- Everyone across the education system takes responsibility for the success of the ACM, including rigorous local and national quality assurance
- Learners have the opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do before 25 June – including practical subjects
- Centres value and act on quality assurance feedback
- Communications are consistent across the piece and tailored for the audience eg learners, parents and carers
- Equalities and children's rights and well being considerations underpin all decisions and actions
- Ensuring sufficient resource to complete national quality assurance within very tight time frame
- Appeals process post-August - subject to consultation





# Other key points

- Made adjustment to assessment of National 4 – added value unit assessment is optional for current session
- Vocational qualifications – making modifications to assessment overseen by HNVQ 2021 Group. Guidance issued to schools Wednesday 10 March with tailored message for learners to follow
- Started work to consider approaches for session 2021-22 for National and Vocational Qualifications
- Consultation on Appeals for 2021

# Communication

- Learner voice: SQA learner panel in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP)
- Clear communications for parents/carers and learners: working with NPFS and SYP on format and tone of communications.
- Vocational qualifications guidance published for schools and local authorities
- Dedicated web space for both NQ and HNVQ 2021 information [sqa.org.uk/NQ2021](https://sqa.org.uk/NQ2021) and [sqa.org.uk/HNVQ2021](https://sqa.org.uk/HNVQ2021)
- Ongoing promotion of Understanding Standards materials, subject-specific guidance and assessment resources for 2021
- Providing further information for schools and colleges about national quality assurance
- Ongoing communications with SQA Appointees
- Consultation on Appeals for 2021



# Questions?

