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Dear Parent/Guardian

The Scottish Qualifications Agency has produced a guide to the intended assessment of National Qualifications for S4 pupils for the session 2021-2022

We have summarised their intentions below (*Appendix 1*)

During the school year 2021/22 staff intend to gather ongoing evidence of pupil attainment and it is important that pupils tackle class assessments to the best of their ability in case the final examination diet is affected again, or pupils are unable to sit their final exams for any reason.

If you have any concerns or questions during the year, please get in contact to discuss them.

Yours faithfully

James Garrick (DHT)

Appendix 1

Assessment of National Qualifications in 2021-22

The central planning assumption is that an examination diet for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will be held in session 2021-2022.

SQA exams will take place from 26 April to 1 June 2022 with results day on 9 August 2022.

While detailed planning for delivering exams is now underway, it is also important that SQA, along with the whole education system, plans for any further disruption that may happen due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher assessments in 2021-22

Modifications to the assessment requirements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course were announced in June (a brief overview of these can be found by visiting sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects, selecting a subject and then selecting the 'Course information 2021-22' tab).

The modifications will help reduce the volume of assessment and ease teacher, lecturer and learner workload, while maintaining the credibility of these qualifications. This will also allow for any lost learning caused by Covid-19 and will support learners as they progress to the next stage of their qualifications.

For most National 5 to Advanced Higher courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for 2020-21.

From Thursday 19 August, SQA will start to publish 'modification summary documents' that provide more detail on the 2021-22 modifications and explain the assessment requirements for this year. This will help teachers and lecturers to prepare learners for their coursework and/or exams. All summaries will be available by the **end of August 2021**.

In the event of further significant disruption to learning

If there is further significant disruption to learning and teaching this session, beyond that experienced in 2020-21, appropriate additional support measures for learners will be put in place to ensure that exams can still go ahead. For some courses this could include, for example, advance notice of some topics which will feature in exams.

In the event of significant changes to public health conditions at exam time

If changes to public health advice mean that large gatherings of people are no longer permitted in April to June, and exams are cancelled, SQA will ask teachers and lecturers to use their professional judgement of assessment evidence to determine learners' grades.

Schools, colleges and training providers will not be required to carry out any additional assessments, as they did in 2020-21. Instead, teachers and lecturers will be asked to determine learners' grades based on the work that learners have already completed throughout the year.

To prepare for this scenario, teachers and lecturers should — as they would in a normal year — gather examples of learners' work and keep a record of any assessments that take place throughout the session, for example prelims, practical performances or class tests that provide an appropriate degree of challenge, integration and application of the key knowledge and skills of each National Course.

Gathering completed assessments as learners' progress through the session will provide a reliable collection of evidence that can be used to determine their grades if exams are cancelled at short notice.

SQA will provide all schools, colleges and training providers, as well as learners, parents and carers, with more information and appropriate guidance on the arrangements for assessing and awarding National Qualifications at the earliest opportunity.