



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

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SQA QUALIFICATIONS 2021

Dear Student,

Following on from the announcement from the Deputy First Minister that the final examinations have been cancelled, I have included some information with regards to the assessment arrangements within our school. This is based on guidance produced from SQA, however, the full details of the Alternative Certification Model have yet to be released, so these are **subject to change**.

For each subject that you do, we have to collect between two and four pieces of work that will form the basis of arriving at a final award. Highland Council, similar to all other local authorities, has devised a model for scheduling of assessment pieces. From that, I have developed a timetable for assessments that provide the flexibility for both yourself and teachers to allow assessments at appropriate times, yet balance the demands to prevent over assessment whilst preventing over-assessment.

You should have completed initial assessments for all subjects this term, leaving **three** further assessment windows to collect robust evidence:

- Second assessment window - January to mid-February
- Third assessment window - mid-February until Easter
- Final assessment window- mid-April to mid-May

I have developed a booking system to ensure that you are not over-assessed, and this should limit assessments to a maximum of only one per day. Each timetabled column in the senior timetable will be given a specific day of the week to do an assessment- There will **not be traditional prelim assessments**, other than Higher English assessments on the 22nd January.

COLUMN	DAY of ASSESSMENT
Column A Subjects	Mondays P4 & 5 (alternate)
Column B Subjects	Tuesdays P4 & 5
Column C Subjects	Mondays or Thursdays P2 & 3 (alternate)
Column D Subjects	Wednesdays 5 & 6
Column E Subjects	Fridays P4 & 5
S4 MATHS/ENGLISH	Thursdays P4 & 5 (alternate)

HIGHER/AH ENGLISH ASSESSMENT: 22nd January, 2021. Paper 1- 9:40-11:20; Paper 2: 11:40-13:10

Assessments will undergo quality assurance, both internally, within Highland Council and by the SQA. Please see the guidance produced from SQA at the end of this letter of key dates.

SQA quality assurance model session 2020-21:

November 2020 to March 2021 Teachers and lecturers use guidance and assessment materials to help gather learner evidence

January to April SQA requests, reviews and provides feedback on samples of assessment evidence from each school and college.

March to May Schools, colleges and local authorities will work through SQA feedback and carry out their own quality assurance of the provisional results.

By 28 May Schools and colleges submit quality assured provisional results.

June SQA carries out national check of provisional results and may follow up on any issues with schools, colleges and local authorities.

These processes are in place to ensure that grades awarded in the north of Scotland is of the same standard as one which is awarded in the south of Scotland, and everywhere in between.

Most of the support will be provided before the school or college submit your child's provisional results to SQA. This should reduce the need for schools and colleges to resubmit provisional results following SQA review in June. If your child's provisional results need to be adjusted to reflect their evidence, this will follow discussion between their school or college and SQA.

For further information please see <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96097.html>

If you have any further questions, please contact either myself or your Pupil support teacher.



Mr A Breen, Depute Head Teacher

Miss C A MacDonald
Head Teacher/Ceannard