

**Sent:** 20 September 2021

**Subject:** AHS S4, S5, S6 - SQA Exams 2021-22

**To: S4, S5 and S6 Pupils, Parents and Carers**

**Re: National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Exams and Assessments 2021-22**

On 15 September 2021, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) set out its plans for next year's exams and assessments. This was following the decision by the Scottish Government that exams should go ahead in 2022 if it is safe to do so. The SQA is monitoring public health advice to prepare for a range of scenarios, given that there is a possibility of further disruption over the winter.

**The scenarios the SQA are considering are:**

### **1. Exams go ahead**

The Scottish Government announced on 18 August that SQA exams will take place, if safe to do so, in spring 2022. Recognising the continued disruption to learning and teaching this year, the SQA has kept most of the modifications made to course assessments (exams and coursework) in session 2020-21. This means that, in most courses, learners will do less assessment than in a 'normal' year with exams, and more time will be available to focus on learning and teaching.

### **2. Exams go ahead with additional measures**

If there is further significant disruption to learning and teaching this session, the SQA will put in place additional support measures for learners to help reduce pre-exam stress. For example, where possible in some subjects the SQA may provide additional information to help learners focus their study on the run up to the exams. The actual assessments will not change under this approach. If additional measures are required, they will be introduced at the end of March 2022.

### **3. Exams are cancelled and teachers and lecturers determine provisional results**

If the Covid-19 pandemic gets worse and physical gatherings are restricted at the time of the exams, the SQA exam diet will be cancelled. If this happens, teachers and lecturers will be asked to determine provisional results by using their professional judgement of evidence that shows each learner's skills, knowledge and understanding.

Teachers and lecturers will use the evidence that would be needed in a 'normal' year. The SQA will publish further guidance in October 2021 to support schools with this activity. Under this approach there is **no requirement** for schools to run additional assessments. Doing so would place excess workload on teachers, lecturers and learners.

**Provisional results would be based on assessments that normally take place during the school year such as prelims, practical activities, performances and class tests – *in other words, the work you complete over the winter will be crucial in supporting your final award, if the exams cannot go ahead.***

Further information and guidance on assessment arrangements is available on the SQA's [website](#).

Subject teachers will continue to share information with their classes, and Mr Redman (Depute Head/SQA Co-ordinator) and I will continue to message with general information.

Best regards

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