



SQA assessments in 2023-24: Information for learners

On Wednesday 29 March 2023 we emailed your school, college or training provider with information on the way National Qualifications and Higher National and Vocational Qualifications courses will be assessed in **2023-24**. We realise that you will be most likely preparing for exams right now, so we'll provide you with more information about next year's course assessments once your exams are finished.

The following information is intended to answer any questions you might have in the meantime.

What is happening to course assessments in 2023-24?

Most SQA courses will return to full assessment – for example coursework, performances, graded units and exams. This follows extensive discussions with the education community.

Why are courses returning to full assessment?

Changes to assessment were introduced in 2021 as a temporary emergency response to the Covid pandemic and the public health guidance. They included measures such as removing coursework or exams from practical subjects. These changes (usually referred to as 'modifications') helped reduce workload for learners, teachers and lecturers to free up time for completing courses.

While these changes were well-received, expert advice from teachers, lecturers, universities and colleges suggests that, if kept in place for longer than necessary, they could have a negative impact on your level of knowledge, skills and understanding in some courses. This could also affect your next steps into further/higher education, employment or training.

Why are some courses returning to full assessment and not others?

We listened to feedback and expert advice from the education community, including teachers and lecturers who marked and graded assessments last year. They told us that in most courses, keeping the changes could have a negative impact on your learning, but that in some courses the changes should be kept as they provide a better way for you to demonstrate your level of knowledge, skills and understanding.

Why are you adding coursework back in?

Removing coursework helped free up time for learners to complete their courses during the significant disruption of the Covid pandemic. This was a temporary emergency measure.

Coursework gives you an opportunity to demonstrate how well you know your subject and can apply your skills and knowledge and counts towards your final grade. It can be particularly helpful for those who might not perform well in exams.

How much of my final grade is dependent on my exam/coursework?

The split between different types of assessment varies among courses. Please speak to your teacher, lecturer or training provider for more details about your course assessment.

How is SQA supporting me with my qualifications in 2023-24?

SQA will continue to support your school, college or training provider so they can help you as you progress through S4, S5, S6 and beyond. We have also created a dedicated space on our website for you to stay up to date with all the latest information and to access helpful advice and tips. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/learners. This will be updated with information for you about course assessments in 2023-24 once this year's exams are finished.