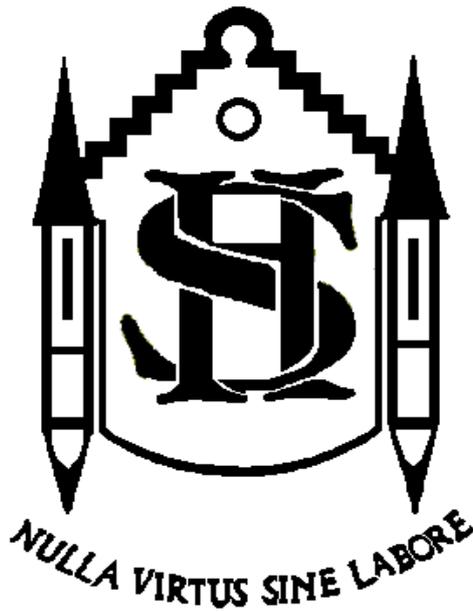# English
Higher / National 5

Coursework Information

Hermitage Academy

Introduction

As part of the Higher and National 5 courses in English, a portfolio of the candidate's writing is submitted to SQA for assessment.

This portfolio is worth 30 out of the total 100 marks taken into account for course assessment. It will therefore form 30% of the overall mark.

The portfolio is usually made up of two assignments:

- a broadly creative assignment
- and a broadly discursive assignment.

However, in the 2021-22 session, **only one piece is required.** Candidates may have the opportunity in their classes to complete different types of assignments and submit the piece they feel is best, in consultation with their teacher.

The submitted assignment must have a word count of **no more than 1000 words for National 5** and **no more than 1300 words for Higher**.

Whilst candidates will be taught how to approach each style of writing in class, the earlier they start thinking about possible topics and planning their response, the better.

Integrity of Coursework

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that any work submitted is their own and, on completion of the portfolio, a flyleaf declaration must be signed to this effect.

Teachers also have a role in ensuring the integrity of coursework submitted; however and, as portfolios may be completed in class or at home, it is essential that evidence of careful planning and research be made readily available in support of the final submission.

There are no restrictions on the resources to which candidates may have access, for example, spellcheckers and dictionaries. Furthermore, when it comes to assistance being offered with the portfolio, SQA guidance stipulates that it is acceptable for a teacher or third party to provide:

- *an initial discussion with the candidate on the selection of the topic leading to an outline plan;*

- *oral or written suggestions for improvements to a <u>first draft</u>.*

Once work on the assessment has begun, however, the candidate must work independently and <u>should not</u> be provided with:

- *specific advice on how to re-phrase or improve responses.*

It is also <u>not</u> acceptable for <u>anyone</u> to:

- *provide key ideas, a structure or plan, to suggest specific wording or to correct errors in spelling and/or punctuation as this would go beyond reasonable assistance.*

The Portfolio

As aforementioned, this year candidates must submit <u>one</u> broadly creative assignment **or** <u>one</u> broadly discursive assignment.

Once teachers have determined the strengths of their class, they will select a particular style of writing to focus on from the following categories:

<u>Creative</u>

➢ Personal writing – the candidate recounts a personal experience and their reactions to it
➢ Reflective writing – the candidate reflects upon knowledge, thoughts and feelings gained from a personal experience, encounter or idea
➢ Imaginative writing – this can take the form of a short story, episode from a novel, or a richly descriptive piece

<u>Discursive</u>

➢ Persuasive writing – the candidate persuades the reader to agree with their point of view on a single topic or issue
➢ Argumentative writing – the candidate will present two or more points of view on a single topic or issue making clear which they consider most worthy
➢ Report – the candidate presents information on a chosen topic or issue

2020-21 Portfolio Deadlines

The following deadline must be adhered to by all students (although teachers may impose earlier class deadlines for specific assignments):

<u>National 5</u>

First draft of complete portfolio	17th December 2021

<u>Higher</u>

First draft of complete portfolio	17th December 2021

3.

Guidance on Submission

Portfolios may be typed or neatly hand written but must be submitted in the correct template by the deadline stated. If a candidate chooses to type their folio piece, they should print it themselves and submit this to their teacher in person.

The template can be found on the SQA website which can be accessed directly at https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45674.html
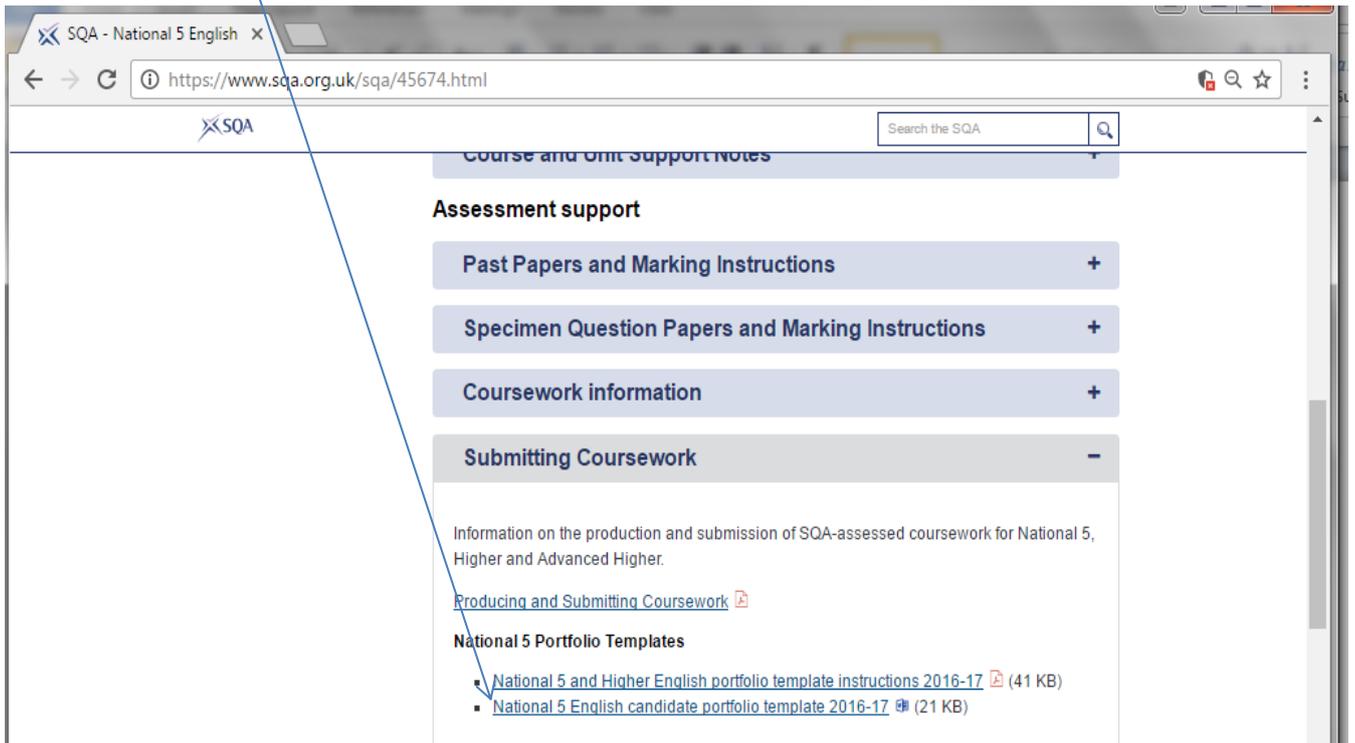
Candidates must also ensure there is a **word count** included and that **all references** consulted for research **are properly acknowledged** in a reference list or bibliography (this does not make up part of the word count).

It is absolutely essential that any quotations used in support of ideas, especially in the discursive assignment, are properly punctuated with quotation marks.

If any information is directly lifted from another source, without being properly acknowledged, the candidate risks losing all marks available for the portfolio due to plagiarism.