Guidance on the use of past paper questions for Higher Modern Studies

The Curriculum for Excellence Higher Courses draw on the strengths of popular areas of study from the existing Higher, with the introduction of some new content. The purpose of this support document is to help centres and departments to identify suitable past paper questions/items that could be used, or possibly amended, to support learners in their preparation for sitting question papers (exams) as part of the Higher Course assessment. The advice in this document reflects questions selected from 2011 to 2013 past papers. If you click on the highlighted links in the columns below, this will take you to the relevant past paper.

When utilising any past paper questions, you need to take into account the following:

- You must select questions that provide the learners with the same level of challenge as those in the Higher Specimen Question Paper.
- You may be able to use questions as published or with amendments as suggested in the columns below.
- You must use questions that adhere to the Higher General Marking Principles and reflect the form of detailed Marking Instructions as published in the Higher Specimen Question Paper.

If any change to a question/items is necessary, you must ensure that:

- The style and structure matches the Specimen Question Paper for Higher.
- Marking of the learner's response to the question adheres to the General Marking Principles in the Higher Specimen Question Paper.
- Marking Instructions are amended to reflect the style of the Higher detailed Marking Instructions.

The details below should be read in conjunction with the relevant:

Mandatory documentation:

- Course Specification
- Unit Specifications
- Course Assessment Specification

Advice and guidance:

- Course and Unit Support Notes

Assessment:

- Question Paper Component:
  - — general assessment information
  - — general marking principles and detailed marking instructions

Related information as provided in the relevant N5–Higher Course Comparison Document.

Key for the section below:

C — amend context as required
S — amend source as required
St — amend question style
Str — amend structure of the question

Not all topics/areas of study will appear every year due to the sampling techniques used in producing question papers.

Information from the Course Assessment Specification	The columns below identify additional support questions from Higher Past Papers 2011 to 2013.
Each Section of the question paper will be made up of restricted/extended response questions. Questions will **sample** the knowledge and understanding and apply skills described in the **Further mandatory information on Course coverage section.**	All past paper questions referred to below were originally out of 15 marks. In the Higher question paper, extended response questions using the command words 'Analyse' or 'Evaluate' will be out of 12 marks; extended response questions using the command words 'Discuss' or 'To what extent' will be out of 20 marks. The style/structure of questions should be adjusted accordingly.
Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom	
The United Kingdom constitutional arrangement, including the role of the Scottish Parliament and other devolved bodies, and the impact of UK membership of the European Union. Ongoing debates about the nature of the political system in the United Kingdom.	2013 P1 QA1
The study of representative democracy in Scotland / United Kingdom.	2011 P1 QA1 2012 P1 QA2 2013 P1 QA2
The impact of voting systems and a range of factors that affect voting behaviour in Scotland / United Kingdom.	2011 P1 QA4 2012 P1 QA4 2013 P1 QA4
The ways in which citizens are informed about, participate in, and influence the political process in Scotland / United Kingdom.	2011 P1 QA2

Social Issues in the United Kingdom	
Social inequality in the United Kingdom	
♦ the nature of social inequality in the United Kingdom	This topic will be treated slightly differently in the new Higher question paper, so there are no equivalent questions.
♦ theories and causes of inequality	2013 P1 QB5 — C
♦ the impact of inequality on specific groups in society	2011 P1 QB5
♦ attempts to tackle inequalities and their effectiveness	2012 P1 QB5 2012 P1 QB6 2013 P1 QB6
Crime and the law in the United Kingdom	These are new topics at this level.
♦ the role of law in society	
♦ theories and causes of crime	
♦ the impact of crime on society	
♦ methods of tackling crime and their effectiveness	

International Issues	
A political and socio-economic study of a major world power	
♦ political system and processes	2012 P1 QC8 — C P1 QC9 — C P1 QC10 — C
♦ recent socio-economic issues	2011 P1 QC8 — C 2013 P1 QC10 — C
♦ evaluation of the effectiveness of the government in tackling a socio-economic issue	2011 P1 QC7 — C P1 QC9 — C P1 QC10 — C 2013 P1 QC7 — C P1 QC8 — C
♦ the role of the world power in international relations	This is a new topic at this level.
A study of a significant world issue	
♦ causes of the issue	2013 P1 QC11
♦ consequences of the issue	2011 P1 QC12
♦ role of international organisations in attempts to resolve the issue	2011 P1 QC11
♦ effectiveness of international organisations in their attempts to resolve the international issue	2011 P1 QC12 2012 P1 QC11 2013 P1 QC12

Resources	
SQA past papers www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm	Additional Higher assessment support material is available here: Education Scotland www.educationscotland.gov.uk/ Glow www.educationscotland.gov.uk/usingglowandict/ Glow Log-in https://secure.glowscotland.org.uk/login/login.htm