

Changes to assessment in Higher courses from session 2018-19 onwards

The following tables provide a high-level overview of the changes to assessment for each Higher course. More detailed information on these changes can be found on the Higher subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Accounting	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment will increase by 10 marks and will now be worth 60 marks. Candidates will now be required to complete the assignment in one sitting and the completion period will reduce from 3 hours to 2 hours 30 minutes.</p> <p>The assignment topics will now be issued in January each year.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks, to 120 marks. Section 1 will increase by 40 marks and will now include two 40 mark questions. Section 2 will decrease by 20 marks and will now include two 20 mark questions.</p> <p>The exam time will increase by 30 minutes to 2 hours 30 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 100 Assignment: 50</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 120 Assignment: 60</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course.</p> <p>The changes to the conditions of assessment in the assignment will increase the reliability of the assignment.</p> <p>At present, the assignment topics are issued in September and our findings have shown that this encourages many centres to focus on teaching the assignment topics. As the assignment topics are not covered in the question paper, this can lead to a discrepancy between the assignment mark and the question paper mark. Issuing the assignment topics in January should help to address this.</p>
Administration and IT	<p>No</p> <p>There will be no change to the assignment task. The assignment will now contribute to 58% of the overall marks available for assessment.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 2 of the question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The question paper will now be worth 50 marks. There will be no change to Section 1.</p> <p>The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 30 Assignment: 70</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 30% Assignment: 70%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 50 Assignment: 70</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 42% Assignment: 58%</p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.</p>
Art and Design	<p>Yes</p> <p>As with National 5, the portfolio will now be split into two separate portfolios; one for expressive and one for design. The portfolios will now demonstrate a complete creative process – investigation and research, the development of one idea, a final outcome and evaluation. Each portfolio will now be worth 100 marks each.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be revised to sample more broadly from across the course. Each section will contain six questions: one mandatory and five optional. The mandatory questions will assess candidates' knowledge and understanding of art and design work studied during their course. The optional questions will represent a range of expressive genres, styles and processes and design areas. There will be no change to the duration of the exam.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Portfolio: 160</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 27% Portfolio: 73%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Expressive portfolio: 100 Design portfolio: 100</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 23% Expressive portfolio: 38.5% Design portfolio: 38.5%</p>	<p>The optional image questions of the question paper will cover a wider range of expressive processes and design areas. This will allow candidates more personalisation and choice. By attempting one mandatory and two optional questions in each section, the question paper will effectively assess candidates' ability to apply their knowledge and understanding in different contexts.</p> <p>The portfolios will be extended by 20 marks to allow more content to be sampled following the removal of units.</p>

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Biology	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment will be a report of experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. It will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between. The objective test and extended response questions will now become separate question papers.</p> <p>The total exam time will be 3 hours. The duration of each question paper and the allocation of marks will be confirmed by the end of April 2018.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 100 Assignment: 20</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 83.3% Assignment: 16.7%</p>	<p>Marks Two question papers: 120 Assignment: 20*</p> <p>Weightings Two question papers: 80% Assignment: 20%</p> <p><i>* The assignment will be scaled to 30 marks to give a weighting of 20%</i></p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units from the course.</p> <p>We will remove some course content from the Higher Biology course, re-order some content, and provide clarification of required depth of knowledge. We will publish details by the end of February 2018 on what content is being removed from the course and what content is being re-ordered.</p> <p>Revising the assignment task will provide clear progression from the new National 5 assignment.</p>
Business Management	<p>Yes – changes to conditions of assessment only</p> <p>There will be no change to the assignment task; however there will be some changes to the conditions of assessment.</p> <p>Candidates will no longer be permitted to carry out group work during the research stage. The specified timings for the research and report phases, within the 8 hour completion period, will be removed and a maximum word count of 2,000 words will be introduced for the report.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes, to 2 hours 45 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 70 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 70% Assignment: 30%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 90 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 75% Assignment: 25%</p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units from the course.</p> <p>Carrying out the research stage of the assignment on an individual basis will ensure that candidates are able to fully demonstrate their research skills. Removing the discrete 'research' and 'write-up' phases, during the recommended 8-hour completion period, will allow candidates more flexibility in completing each phase of the assignment and also reflects business practice.</p> <p>Replacing the page count with a maximum word count will ensure all candidates adhere to a consistent standard of reporting and will also enable candidates to integrate graphs and tables within the body of their report.</p>
Care	<p>Yes</p> <p>The project will now be worth 90 marks and have more of a focus on the practical application of care and allow candidates to focus on their individual and their particular needs.</p>	<p>Yes – New question paper</p> <p>A new question paper will be introduced that assesses candidates on the theoretical aspects of the course. The question paper will be worth 40 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 30 minutes to complete it.</p>	<p>Marks Project: 100</p> <p>Weightings Project: 100%</p>	<p>Marks Project: 90 Question paper: 40</p> <p>Weightings Project: 70% Question paper: 30%</p>	<p>Following a review of the current course assessment, it has been identified that psychological and sociological theories can be more effectively assessed in a question paper. The new question paper will assess candidates on the theoretical aspects of the course, while the project will now have more of a focus on the practical application of care.</p>

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Chemistry	Yes The assignment task will be revised and will be a report of experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. It will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between. The objective test and extended response sections will now become separate question papers. The total exam time will be 3 hours. The duration of each question paper and the allocation of marks will be confirmed by the end of April 2018.	Marks Question paper: 100 Assignment: 20 Weightings Question paper: 83.3% Assignment: 16.7%	Marks Two question papers: 120 Assignment: 20* Weightings Two question papers: 80% Assignment: 20% <i>* The assignment will be scaled to 30 marks to give a weighting of 20%</i>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The assignment assessment task will be revised to provide clear progression from the new National 5 assignment.
Childcare and Development	Yes The project will now be worth 90 marks. It will have more of a focus on the practical application of childcare and development and allow candidates to focus on their individual and their particular needs.	Yes – New question paper A new question paper will be introduced that assesses candidates on the theoretical aspects of the course. The question paper will be worth 40 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 30 minutes to complete it.	Marks Project: 100 Weightings Project: 100%	Marks Project: 90 Question paper: 40 Weightings Project: 70% Question paper: 30%	Following a review of the current course assessment, it has been identified that psychological and sociological theories can be more effectively assessed in a question paper. The new question paper will assess candidates on the theoretical aspects of the course, while the project will now have more of a focus on the practical application of childcare and development.
Classical Studies	No There will be no changes to the assignment.	Yes The current question paper will be extended by 20 marks and the assessment time will increase by 45 minutes. The question paper will be split into two question papers, with a break in between. Question paper 1: Classical Literature will be worth 30 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 10 minutes to complete the question paper. Question paper 2: Classical Society will be worth 50 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 50 minutes to complete the question paper.	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%	Marks Two question papers: 80 Assignment: 30 Weightings Two question papers: 73% Assignment: 27%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Computing Science	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment will now be issued on an annual basis and will be externally assessed by SQA. As such, the optional aspect of the assignment will be removed. The assignment will continue to assess many of the same skills as the current assignment but will involve a series of smaller, individual tasks.</p> <p>Compared to the current assignment, there will be fewer marks for analysis, design testing and evaluation but more marks for implementation (ie coding). The assignment will be reduced by 10 marks.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The revised question paper will have a greater focus on problem solving and will be much more skills-based. Candidates will be assessed on the skills of analysis, design, testing and evaluation, which are mainly assessed through the assignment at present. Implementation in the question paper will focus on the skills of reading, understanding and explaining code.</p> <p>The number of marks available will increase by 20 marks</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 90 marks Assignment: 60 marks</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 60% Assignment: 40%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 110 marks Assignment: 50 marks</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 69% Assignment: 31%</p>	<p>In addition to these changes, and in line with National 5, we will review and clarify the course content for Higher. We will also remove some sections of the previous course content.</p>
Dance	<p>Yes</p> <p>The choreography section of the practical activity will increase by 10 marks to 45 marks, and the choreography review will decrease by 10 marks to 25 marks. A recommended word count will be introduced for the choreography review.</p> <p>There will be no change to the performance.</p>	<p>Yes – New question paper</p> <p>A new question paper will be introduced. It will contain two sections (Section 1 – 24 marks; Section 2 – 16 marks).</p> <p>Candidates will have 2 hours to complete the question paper.</p>	<p>Marks Performance: 70 Practical activity: 70</p> <p>Weightings Performance: 50% Practical activity: 50%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 40 Performance: 70 Practical activity: 70</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 30% Performance: 40% Practical activity: 30%</p>	<p>The new question paper will assess candidates on the assessment standards that are currently assessed in the units but not in the course assessment. This will ensure candidates continue to be assessed on these standards following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course</p> <p>The changes to marks in the practical activity will ensure an appropriate weighting between the practical and written elements of the course assessment, following the introduction of the new question paper. The introduction of a recommended word count for the choreography review will ensure a consistent standard, and will also ensure that candidates do not spend more time on the task than necessary. The choreography review can still be presented in a variety of formats such as an oral presentation, written report, video or a combination of these approaches.</p>
Design and Manufacture	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment will be issued on an annual basis and will increase by 20 marks.</p> <p>The assignment will now be externally assessed by SQA</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 10 marks.</p> <p>The duration of the exam will increase by 15 minutes, to 2 hours 15 minutes, to accommodate the increase in marks.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 70 Assignment: 70</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 50% Assignment: 50%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 80 Assignment: 90</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 47% Assignment: 53%</p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. Specifically, outcome 1 of the Design and Manufacture: Materials and Manufacture unit – analyse the production of a commercial product – will now be incorporated into the question paper.</p> <p>Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course, outcome 1 of the Design and Manufacture: Design unit (analyse a</p>

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					design brief and produce a detailed specification) will now be incorporated into the assignment. Further marks will be added to the assignment due to the incorporation of outcome 2 of the Design and Manufacture: Materials and Manufacture unit (plan the production of a commercial product). This complements the skills, knowledge and understanding already assessed in the assignment. As part of this, candidates will now be assessed on their practical modelling skills and their ability to produce a plan for commercial manufacture.
Drama	No There are no changes planned to the assessment task. The 'Preparation for Performance' task and marking instructions will be reviewed and minor amendments may be introduced for next session. Further details will be provided in the course specification at the end of April.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 10 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes, to 2 hours 30 minutes, to accommodate the additional marks.	Marks Question paper: 40 Performance: 60 Weightings Question paper: 40% Performance: 60%	Marks Question paper: 50 Performance: 60 Weightings Question paper: 40%* Performance: 60% <i>*Marks will be scaled to give a weighting of 40%</i>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.
Economics	Yes – changes to conditions of assessment only There will be no change to the assignment task; however there will be some changes to the conditions of assessment. Candidates will no longer be permitted to carry out group work during the research stage. The specified timings for the research and report phases, within the 8 hour completion period, will be removed and a maximum word count of 2,000 words will be introduced for the report.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes to 2 hours 30 minutes.	Marks Question paper: 70 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 70% Assignment: 30%	Marks Question paper: 90 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 75% Assignment: 25%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. Candidates will now be required to carry out the research stage of the assignment on an individual basis to ensure that they are able to demonstrate fully their research skills for assessment. Removing the discrete 'research' and 'write-up' phases during the recommended 8-hour completion period, to allow candidates more flexibility in completing each phase of the assignment and also reflects business practice. Replacing the page count with a maximum word count will ensure all candidates adhere to a consistent standard of reporting and will also enable candidates to integrate graphs and tables within the body of their report.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Engineering Science	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment will be reduced by 10 marks and the marks removed from the assignment will be transferred to the question paper.</p> <p>The assignment task will now be issued on an annual basis and the completed assignments will be submitted to SQA for external marking.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes, to 2 hours 30 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 90 Assignment: 60</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 60% Assignment: 40%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 110 Assignment: 50</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 69% Assignment: 31%</p>	<p>These changes mirror the changes to the National 5 Engineering Science course that were implemented in session 2017-18.</p> <p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.</p>
English	<p>Yes – new coursework component</p> <p>A new performance-spoken language component will be introduced to assess the skills of talking and listening. It will be assessed as achieved/not achieved and candidates will need to achieve the minimum requirements of this component to gain the course award.</p> <p>There are no changes to the portfolio-writing.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no changes to the question papers.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper 1: 30 Question paper 2: 40 Portfolio-writing: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper 1: 30% Question paper 2: 40% Portfolio-writing: 30%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper 1: 30 Question paper 2: 40 Portfolio-writing: 30 Performance-spoken language: Achieved/Not achieved only</p> <p>Weightings Question paper 1: 30% Question paper 2: 40% Portfolio: 30% Performance-spoken language: Not applicable</p>	<p>The new performance-spoken language component will assess the skills of talking and listening, which are currently assessed through the units. This mirrors the structure of the National 5 course and will ensure that candidates continue to be assessed on these skills once the units are removed from the course from session 2018-19.</p>
Environmental Science	<p>Yes</p> <p>The assignment assessment task will be revised and will be a report of fieldwork/experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks and will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between.</p> <p>The total exam time will be 3 hours 15 minutes. The duration of each question paper and the allocation of marks will be confirmed by the end of April 2018.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 100 Assignment: 20</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 83.3% Assignment: 16.7%</p>	<p>Marks Two question paper: 120 Assignment: 20*</p> <p>Weightings Two question papers: 80% Assignment: 20%</p> <p><i>* The assignment will be scaled to 30 marks to give a weighting of 20%</i></p>	<p>Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.</p>

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
ESOL	No	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks and will be split into three separate question papers, with a break in between.</p> <p>Question paper 1 (Listening) will be worth 25 marks and candidates will have 45 minutes to complete the question paper.</p> <p>Question paper 2 (Reading) will be worth 35 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 10 minutes to complete the question paper.</p> <p>Question paper 3 (Writing) will be worth 30 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 40 minutes to complete the question paper.</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Question paper: 70 Performance: 30</p> <p>Weightings</p> <p>Question paper: 70% Performance: 30%</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Question paper 1 (Listening): 25 Question paper 2 (Reading): 35 Question paper 3 (Writing): 30 Performance: 30</p> <p>Weightings</p> <p>Question paper (Listening): 20% Question paper (Reading): 25% Question paper (Writing): 25% Performance: 30%</p>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course.
Fashion and Textile Technology	<p>Yes</p> <p>Following the removal of units from the course, the design briefs for the assessment will now require candidates to address the factors influencing the target market (currently covered in the Fashion/Textile Choices unit), the properties and characteristics of the textiles and the construction techniques to be used in the solution (currently covered in the Textile Technologies unit).</p> <p>Minor amendments will be made to the marks awarded in the assignment.</p>	<p>Yes – New question paper</p> <p>A new question paper will be introduced. It will have two sections (Section 1 – 15 marks; Section 2 – 30 marks) and candidates will have 1 hour 30 minutes to complete the question paper.</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Assignment and practical activity: 100</p> <p>Weighting</p> <p>Assignment and practical activity: 100%</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Question paper: 45 Assignment and practical activity: 100</p> <p>Weightings</p> <p>Question paper: 30% Assignment and practical activity: 70%</p>	<p>The new question paper has been introduced to assess candidates' skills, knowledge and understanding that are currently assessed only in the units.</p> <p>Minor amendments will be made to the marks awarded in the assignment to align it with the revised National 5 assignment.</p>
Gàidhlig	<p>Yes – New assignment component</p> <p>A new assignment will be introduced that will assess candidates' writing skills. This will ensure that the skill of creative or discursive writing continues to be assessed, following the removal of the Creation and Production unit from the course.</p> <p>There will be no changes to the performance-talking.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The section of the question paper that is currently called 'Writing' will be renamed 'Literature' and will only assess the skill of critical reading.</p> <p>No other changes will be made to the question paper, although the marking instructions will be updated to ensure that only the critical reading aspect is assessed during marking</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Question paper 1 (Reading and Writing): 50 Question paper 2 (Listening): 20 Performance-talking: 30</p>	<p>Marks</p> <p>Question paper 1 (Reading and Literature): 50 Question paper 2 (Listening): 20 Assignment-writing: 20 Performance-talking: 30</p>	<p>As the new assignment will assess candidates' writing skills more fully, there is no longer a requirement for the skill of writing to be assessed in the question paper.</p> <p>These changes mirror the changes to the National 5 course, which were implemented in session 2017-18.</p>

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Geography	No There will be no change to the assignment task. Following the extension of the question paper, the assignment will now have a 27% weighting.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 100 marks. It will be split into two question papers, with a break in between. Question paper 1 will include two sections on Physical Environments and Human Environments. It will be worth 100 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 50 minutes to complete the question paper. Question paper 2 will include two sections on Global Issues and Application of Geographical Skills. It will be worth 60 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 10 minutes to complete the question paper.	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%	Marks Question paper 1: 100 Question paper 2: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper 1: 46% Question paper 2: 27% Assignment: 27%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. Increasing the marks to 160 will make marking more straightforward. Following feedback from teachers, a river features question will be introduced to the Physical Environments section and 'land use conflicts' will move to the Human Environments section to accommodate this. The number of case studies required for 'land use conflicts' will reduce from 2 to 1. One optional topic will be removed from the Global Issues section, giving candidates a choice of two from four optional topics in this section.
Graphic Communication	Yes The assignment will be reduced by 20 marks and the marks removed from the assignment will be transferred to the question paper. The assignment task will now be issued on an annual basis and the completed assignments will be submitted to SQA for external marking.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes, to 2 hours 30 minutes.	Marks Question paper: 70 Assignment: 70 Weightings Question paper: 50% Assignment: 50%	Marks Question paper: 90 Assignment: 50 Weightings Question paper: 64% Assignment: 36%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. This mirrors the changes to National 5 Graphic Communication that were implemented in session 2017-18.
Health and Food Technology	Yes The assignment will be extended by 10 marks.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 10 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 30 minutes, to 2 hours.	Marks Question paper: 50 Assignment: 50 Weightings Question paper: 50% Assignment: 50%	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 60 Weightings Question paper: 50% Assignment: 50%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The assignment will be extended to mirror the revised National 5 assignment, ensuring a clear progression from National 5 to Higher.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
History	No There will be no change to the assignment task. Following the extension of the question paper, the assignment will now have a 27% weighting.	Yes The current question paper will be extended by 20 marks and the assessment time will increase by 40 minutes. The question paper will be split into two question papers, with a break in between. Question paper 1 will include two sections on British, and European and World contexts. It will be worth 44 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 30 minutes to complete the question paper. Question paper 2 will include one section on Scottish contexts. It will be worth 36 marks and candidates will have 1 hour 30 minutes to complete the question paper.	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%	Marks Question paper 1: 44 Question paper 2: 36 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question papers 1 and 2: 73% Assignment: 27%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. In question paper 1, candidates will answer one extended response question in each section. The extended response questions will increase from 20 marks to 22 marks. In question paper 2, candidates will answer source-handling questions and a knowledge question. This will include a new 'explain' question that requires candidates to give an explanation of events, rather than a description.
Human Biology	Yes The assignment will be a report of experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks and will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between. The objective test and extended response questions will now become separate question papers. The total exam time will be 3 hours. The duration of each question paper and the allocation of marks will be confirmed by the end of April 2018.	Marks Question paper: 100 Assignment: 20 Weightings Question paper: 83.3% Assignment: 16.7%	Marks Two question papers: 120 Assignment: 20* Weightings Two question papers: 80% Assignment: 20% <i>* The assignment will be scaled to 30 marks to give a weighting of 20%</i>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units from the course. We will remove some course content from the Higher Biology course, re-order some content, and provide clarification of required depth of knowledge. We will publish details by the end of February 2018 on what content is being removed from the course and what content is being re-ordered. Revising the assignment task will provide clear progression from the new National 5 Biology assignment.
Latin	Not applicable – this course does not include a coursework component.	Yes Question paper 1 (Literary Appreciation) will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 40 minutes, to 2 hours 40 minutes. Question paper 2 (Translating) The question paper will be extended by 10 marks.	Marks Question paper 1 (Literary Appreciation): 60 Question paper 2 (Translating): 40 Weightings Question paper 1 (Literary Appreciation): 60% Question paper 2 (Translating): 40%	Marks Question paper 1 (Literary Appreciation): 80 Question paper 2 (Translating): 50 Weightings Question paper 1 (Literary Appreciation): 60% Question paper 2 (Translating): 50 marks (40%)	Extending question paper 1 will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. Question paper 2 will be extended by increasing the number of blocks (sense units) from 20 to 25. This will enhance the reliability of the course assessment.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Mathematics	Not applicable – this course does not include a coursework component.	Yes Question paper 1 (Non-calculator) will be extended by 10 marks. The exam time will increase by 20 minutes, to 1 hour 30 minutes. Question paper 2 will be extended by 10 marks. The exam time will increase by 15 minutes, to 1 hour 45 minutes.	Marks Question paper 1 – Non-calculator: 60 Question paper 2: 70 Weightings Question paper 1 – Non-calculator: 46.2% Question paper 2: 53.8%	Marks Question paper 1 – Non-calculator: 70 Question paper 2 - 80 Weightings Question paper 1 – Non-calculator: 46.7% Question paper 2: 53.3%	Extending the question papers will ensure that a greater number of skills are assessed, following the removal of units from session 2018-19. Both question papers will assess operational and reasoning skills and will include both short answer and extended response questions.
Media	Yes Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course, the assignment will assess skills from the Creating Media Content unit which are not currently sampled in the course assessment. There will also be revisions to some sections of the assignment. The assignment will increase by 10 marks and will now be worth 60 marks.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks and will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between. The Analysing Media Content question paper will be worth 50 marks in total. A new section worth 10 marks will be added to this question paper, which requires candidates to analyse unseen media texts. Candidates will have 2 hours 30 minutes* to complete the question paper. The Role of Media question paper will be worth 20 marks and candidates will have 1 hour to complete the question paper. <i>* The exact timing of the Analysing Media Content question paper will be confirmed in the revised course specification at the end of April 2018.</i>	Marks Question paper: 50 Assignment: 50 Weightings Question paper: 50% Assignment: 50%	Marks Question paper (Analysing Media Content): 50 Question paper (Role of Media): 20 Assignment: 60 Weightings Question papers: 50%* Assignment: 50% <i>*The marks for both question papers will be combined and scaled from 70 to 60 to give a weighting of 50%</i>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The revisions will ensure clear progression from the National 5 question paper. The assignment will assess skills from the Creating Media Content unit which are not currently sampled in the course assessment. We will also make revisions to some sections of the assignment to ensure more effective progression from the National 5 assignment.
Modern Languages (Chinese languages, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Gaelic (Learners), Urdu)	Yes – New assignment-writing component and revised performance-talking component A new assignment-writing component will be introduced, which draws on features of the current unit assessments. Candidates will produce a piece of writing in one of the contexts of society, learning, employability or culture but they can also include the other context(s) in their writing if they wish. For the performance-talking, candidates will no longer be required to deliver a presentation. They will take part in a discussion only and must cover at least two contexts. The discussion will last approximately 10 minutes.	Yes In question paper 1 (<i>Reading and Directed Writing</i>), the Directed Writing section will be worth 20 marks. Candidates will now address six mandatory bullet points and the word count will increase to 150-180 words or 180-240 Chinese characters. The duration of the question paper overall will increase to 2 hours (2 hours 40 minutes for Chinese languages). In question paper 2 (now <i>Listening</i> only), the Writing section will be removed from the question paper, following the introduction of the new assignment-writing. For Gaelic (Learners) only, the Literature section will be removed.	Marks Question paper 1: Reading – 30 Directed Writing – 10 Question paper 2: Listening – 20 Writing/Literature (Gaelic (Learners) only) – 10 Performance-talking: 30	Marks Question paper 1: Reading – 30 Directed Writing – 20 Question paper 2: Listening – 20 Assignment-writing: 20 Performance-talking: 30	The assignment-writing will increase personalisation and choice and ensure a clear progression from National 5. To recognise the equal status of all four language skills, scaling will be applied to ensure equal weighting.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Modern Studies	No There will be no change to the assignment task. The weighting of the assignment will reduce from 33% to 27%.	Yes The current question paper will be extended by 20 marks. It will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between. For question paper 1, candidates will answer two 20 mark extended response questions and one 12 mark extended response question. There will be no change to the question types. Candidates will have 1 hour 45 minutes to complete the question paper. Question paper 2 will contain source questions. Both the conclusion and objectivity questions will increase from 8 marks to 10 marks and the question paper will also include a new 8 mark reliability question. Candidates will have 1 hour 15 minutes to complete the question paper.	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%	Marks Question paper 1: 52 Question paper 2: 28 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper 1: 47% Question paper 2: 26% Assignment: 27%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The extension of the question paper meant that the duration of the exam would increase to 3 hours. The decision was taken to split the extended question paper into two separate question papers to ensure the timing is more manageable for candidates.
Music	Yes As with the National 5 Music course, a new composing assignment will be introduced. Candidates will be required to compose one piece of music lasting between a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes. The piece of music produced for the assignment must include harmony.	No	Marks Question paper: 40 Performance: 60 Weightings Question paper: 40% Performance: 60%	Marks Question paper: 40 Assignment: 30 Performance: 60 Weightings Question paper: 35% Assignment: 15% Performance: 50%	The new composing assignment will ensure that candidates continue to be assessed on composing, which is a key skill of the Higher Music course and is currently assessed through units and unit assessments.
Music Technology	Yes The assignment will be extended by 10 marks. The assignment will continue to be one piece of work which demonstrates planning, implementing and evaluation.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 10 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 15 minutes to accommodate the increase in marks.	Marks Question paper: 30 Assignment: 70 Weightings Question paper: 30% Assignment: 70%	Marks Question paper: 40 Assignment: 80 Weightings Question paper: 30% Assignment: 70%	Extending the question paper will ensure candidates continue to be assessed on the skills, knowledge and understanding that are currently assessed in the Understanding 20 th and 21 st Century Music unit. Extending the assignment will ensure candidates continue to be assessed on the skills, knowledge and understanding that are currently assessed in the Music Technology Skills unit.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Philosophy	<p>Yes – Replaced by question paper</p> <p>The key skills assessed in the assignment are to present a sustained and focused argument, followed by a clear and well-supported conclusion. Candidates will now be assessed on these skills by answering essay questions in a question paper (question paper 2).</p>	<p>Yes – New question paper component</p> <p>The current question paper (question paper 1) will now be worth 50 marks. Section 1 – Arguments in Action will increase from 20 marks to 30 marks and sections 2 and 3 (Knowledge and Doubt, and Moral Philosophy) will reduce from 20 marks to 10 marks each. The marks removed from sections 2 and 3 will be redistributed to question paper 2. Candidates will have 1 hour 45 minutes to complete question paper 1.</p> <p>Question paper 2 will have two sections: Knowledge and Doubt, and Moral Philosophy, which will each be worth 30 marks. Candidates will have 2 hours 15 minutes to complete the question paper.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper 1: 50 Question paper 2: 60</p> <p>Weightings Question paper 1: 45% Question paper 2: 55%</p>	<p>The decision to remove the assignment and replace it with an essay-based question paper follows concerns raised by teachers regarding the purpose and value of the assignment, and a review of factors which impacted the validity of the assessment, including a recurring issue of plagiarism.</p>
Photography	<p>Yes</p> <p>Content previously assessed in the units relating to knowledge and understanding of the impact of social, cultural, historical and scientific influences on photographers' work and practice will now be included in the research and investigation section of the project.</p> <p>The project evaluation will now have a maximum word count of 500.</p>	<p>Yes – New question paper component</p> <p>A new question paper will be introduced that will assess candidates on their knowledge and understanding of photography from different genres and styles. It will be worth 30 marks and candidates will have 1 hour to complete the question paper.</p>	<p>Marks Project: 100</p> <p>Weightings Project: 100%</p>	<p>Marks Project: 100 Question paper: 30</p> <p>Weightings Project: 77% Question paper: 23%</p>	<p>The question paper will assess content that is currently assessed in the units only. It will also sample more broadly from across the course and assess candidates on a wider range of knowledge and understanding than can be demonstrated in individual projects. This will include properties of light and image formation, and the use of camera controls and photographic processes for specific effect.</p> <p>The project will be revised and restructured to give it more of a focus on practical photography. It will have less written content, with a maximum word count introduced for the evaluation, so that candidates will mainly be assessed on the application of their knowledge and understanding and their practical skills.</p>

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Physical Education	Yes Assessment standard 1.4 of the Performance Skills unit will now be incorporated into the performance. Candidates will now perform two different physical activities, each worth 30 marks.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 10 marks. It will assess the skills of planning and evaluation which are currently assessed in the performance. The question paper will now have three sections. The duration of the exam will increase by 1 hour, to 2 hours 30 minutes.	Marks Question paper: 40 Performance: 60 Weightings Question paper: 40% Performance: 60%	Marks Question paper: 50 Performance: 60* Weightings Question paper: 50% Performance: 50% <i>*The performance will be scaled to 50 marks to give a weighting of 50%</i>	In section 2 of the question paper, candidates will demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding gained from creating and implementing a Personal Development Plan. This is currently assessed in the Factors Impacting on Performance unit, which will be removed from the course. The two activities selected for each candidate's single performance events must provide them with the opportunity to display a significantly different range of movement and performance skills. This will enable candidates to demonstrate the breadth and application of the skills they have learned in the course within different contexts.
Physics	Yes The assignment assessment task will be revised and will be a report of experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 25 marks. It will be split into two question papers (objective test and extended response), with a break in between. The total exam time will be 3 hours. The duration of each question paper and the allocation of marks will be confirmed by the end of April 2018.	Marks Question paper: 130 Assignment: 20 Weightings Question paper: 83.3% Assignment: 16.7%	Marks Question paper: 155 Assignment: 20 marks scaled to 30 Weightings Question paper: 80% Assignment: 20%	The current question paper is being extended to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course. The revisions to the assignment task will provide clear progression from the new National 5 assignment.
Politics	No There will be no changes to the assignment task. The weighting of the assignment will reduce from 33% to 27%.	Yes The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. It will be split into two question papers, with a break in between. For question paper 1, candidates will answer two 20 mark extended response questions and one 12 mark extended response question. There will be no change to the question types. Candidates will have 1 hour 45 minutes to complete the question paper. Question paper 2 contains source questions. The 8 mark source comparison question will remain and the electoral data source question will increase to 20 marks. Candidates will have 1 hour 15 minutes to complete the question paper.	Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%	Marks Question paper 1: 52 Question paper 2: 28 Assignment: 30 Weightings Question paper 1: 47% Question paper 2: 26% Assignment: 27%	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course. The extension of the question paper meant that the duration of the exam would increase to 3 hours in total. The decision was taken to split the extended question paper into two separate papers to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

Subject	Changes to coursework?	Changes to question paper(s)?	Current course assessment	Revised course assessment	Reasons for change / additional information
Psychology	<p>Yes</p> <p>Candidates will no longer be required to describe their method, materials and sample. Instead, they will be asked to justify their choice of method and sampling technique.</p> <p>The assignment will now contribute 33% of the overall marks available for assessment.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The research section will be removed, however research will be more widely sampled within the remaining sections of the question paper. Candidates will also continue to be assessed on their research skills within the assignment.</p> <p>The duration of the exam will increase by 40 minutes, to 2 hours 40 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 40</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 60% Assignment: 40%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 80 Assignment: 40</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course.
RMPS	<p>No</p> <p>There will be no change to the assignment task. The Marking Instructions will be revised.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The current question paper is being extended by 20 marks to allow greater sampling of skills, knowledge and understanding, following the removal of units from the course. It will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.</p> <p>Question paper 1 will be worth 60 marks and will include two sections: World Religion and Morality and Belief. Candidates will have 2 hours 15 minutes to complete Paper 1. Paper 2 will be worth 20 marks and have one section; Religious and Philosophical Questions. Candidates will have 45 minutes to complete Paper 2.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper 1: 60 Question paper 2: 20 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question papers: 73% Assignment: 27%</p>	Extending the question paper will allow greater sampling of skills, knowledge and understanding, following the removal of units from the course.
Sociology	<p>Yes</p> <p>The explanation of the differences between a common sense and a sociological explanation, in relation to the topic chosen (4 marks), will be removed from the assignment. Instead, candidates will be required to give an explanation of the sociological significance of the topic chosen (4 marks). As with the National 5 assignment, candidates will no longer be permitted to use the mandatory study for their assignment.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 40 minutes, to 2 hours 40 minutes.</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 60 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 67% Assignment: 33%</p>	<p>Marks Question paper: 80 Assignment: 30</p> <p>Weightings Question paper: 73% Assignment: 27%</p>	Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course.