

Planned changes to the assessment of Advanced Higher Drama from session 2019–20



We are making some changes to the Advanced Higher Drama course assessment for session 2019–20 onwards in light of units being removed from the course. This will protect the integrity of the course and maintain the current course value of 32 SCQF credit points.

Summary of changes

Current course assessment		Revised course assessment	
Component	Marks	Component	Marks
Performance	60	Performance	50
Project–dissertation	40	Project–dissertation	30
		Assignment	20

The revised course assessment will have an equal balance between practical content and theory, which will allow clear progression from Higher. This will better prepare Advanced Higher candidates who wish to pursue either a theoretical theatre studies course or a performance-related course.

New Advanced Higher Drama assignment

We have identified that removing the *Drama: Production Skills* unit means assessment standard 2.1 ‘analysing the use of complex production skills in a current performance’ is not covered in the current course assessment. We will therefore introduce an assignment worth 20 marks to allow these skills to be assessed.

Key features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 20 marks (20%) ◆ candidates will have a choice of two questions for the assignment ◆ candidates will have 90 minutes to complete the assignment under controlled conditions ◆ candidates will provide an extended response that requires them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — analyse a professional theatrical production in response to the chosen question — research the work of the theatre practitioner involved in the production — focus on a different theatre practitioner and/or performance than the dissertation — use notes during the controlled write-up of the assignment and submit with their work

We will issue a choice of two questions to allow centres and candidates to engage in productions early and find appropriate resources. Centres may choose the most appropriate date and time to carry out the controlled write-up, as this will depend on when candidates are able to see the professional theatrical production. In their responses, candidates must focus on a different practitioner and/or performance to their dissertation.

Advanced Higher Drama performance

Current performance	Revised performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 60 marks (60%) ◆ includes 10 marks for preparation for performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 50 marks (50%) ◆ Does not include preparation for performance

Reasons for change

We are removing the preparation for performance as candidates should have developed the skills, knowledge and understanding required to prepare for a performance by undertaking this task at both National 5 and Higher. The performance component will be marked out of 50 instead of 60.

Advanced Higher Drama project–dissertation

We are reducing the project-dissertation from 40 marks to 30 marks. This will allow for more focused marking within a more accessible range of marks. The dissertation task will remain the same.

Revised course specification

By the end of April 2019, we will publish a revised course specification that combines the current course specification, course assessment specification and coursework general assessment information. We will also add course support notes to the course specification as an appendix by the end of September 2019, to provide further clarity and guidance.

Assessment support materials

Between the end of May and the end of September 2019, we will publish:

- ◆ coursework assessment task and revised marking instructions for the project–dissertation
- ◆ coursework assessment task and revised marking instructions for the performance
- ◆ new coursework assessment task and marking instructions for the new assignment

National Qualifications Support Team

To help identify the appropriate changes we consulted with our National Qualification Support Team, which includes teachers and lecturers.

More information

For more information on changes to assessment in National Qualifications, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk.