

Planned changes to Higher Art and Design from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Art and Design course from session 2018-19 onwards. We are strengthening the course assessment to ensure that it continues to assess candidates on the full content of the course, and to maintain the current course value of 24 SCQF credit points.

In deciding the appropriate changes for the Higher course assessment, we consulted teachers through a focus group and through our National Qualification Support Team (NQST).

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 60 marks (27%) Portfolio: 160 marks (73%)	Question paper: 60 marks (23%) Expressive portfolio: 100 marks (38.5%) Design portfolio: 100 marks (38.5%)

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours • Worth 60 marks (27%) • 2 sections (Section 1 – Expressive Art Studies; Section 2 – Design Studies) • Candidates answer two questions in each section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours • Worth 60 marks (23%) • 2 sections (Section 1 – Expressive Art Studies; Section 2 – Design Studies) • Candidates will attempt one mandatory question and two optional questions from five in each section

The question paper will be revised to sample more broadly from across the course. It will cover a wider range of expressive processes and design areas within the optional image questions. This will allow candidates more personalisation and choice when completing the question paper, which is a key aspect of the course. Each section contains 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. 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.

As with National 5, a list of prompts will be presented in a table to clearly identify art and design terminology which could be used in the question paper.

Changes to the portfolio

Current portfolio	Revised portfolios from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 160 marks (73%)• Candidates produce a portfolio of expressive work (80 marks) and design work (80 marks) over an extended period of time• Each section (Expressive and Design) should be a maximum of 3 x A2 sheets in size (or equivalent)• Externally assessed by SQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two portfolios (one expressive portfolio and one design portfolio)• 100 marks (38.5%) each• Candidates produce expressive work and design work over an extended period of time• Each portfolio should be a maximum of 3 x A2 sheets in size (or equivalent)• Externally assessed by SQA

As with National 5, the portfolio will now be split into two separate portfolios; one for expressive and one for design. The portfolios will be extended by 20 marks to allow more content to be sampled following the removal of units. 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.

Documents and assessment support materials

More detail on the requirements for the Higher course assessment will be provided in the revised Higher course specification, which will be published at the end of April 2018. Course support notes will be added to the revised course specification as an appendix by the end of September 2018, to provide additional clarity and guidance.

We will publish a revised specimen question paper and coursework assessment tasks to reflect the above changes to assessment. These materials will be published between the end of May and the end of September 2018.

More information

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

If you have any queries regarding the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk