

Planned changes to Higher Childcare and Development from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Childcare and Development course from session 2018-19 onwards. We are strengthening the course assessment to ensure that candidates continue to be assessed 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 with our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which include teachers and lecturers.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Project: 100 marks (100%)	Project: 90 marks (70%) Question paper: 40 marks (30%)

New question paper

New question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30 minutes • Worth 40 marks (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. A new question paper will be introduced to ensure that candidates understand and retain the more theoretical aspects of the course.

Changes to the project

Current project	Revised project from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 marks (100%) • 3000 – 4000 words • Conducted under some supervision and control • Externally assessed by SQA • 10% penalty if word count is exceeded by 10% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 marks (70%) • 3000 – 4000 words • Conducted under some supervision and control • Externally assessed by SQA • 10% penalty if word count is exceeded by 10%

The project will now 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. It will be worth 90 marks and contribute to 70% of the course assessment.

We will clarify the assessment standards so that two assessment standards, which are partially met in the current project, will be fully incorporated following the removal of units and unit assessments from session 2018-19 onwards.

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 new specimen question paper to illustrate the requirements of the new question paper. We will also publish a revised coursework assessment task for the project to reflect the reduction in marks. 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 on the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk