

## Planned changes to Higher Classical Studies from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Classical Studies 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) and our Item Writers/Markers. We also engaged with groups of teachers throughout Scotland.

### Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

| Current course assessment                                    | Revised course assessment   |
|--|---|
| Question paper: 60 marks (67%)<br>Assignment: 30 marks (33%) | Two question papers: 80 marks (73%)<br>Assignment: 30 marks (27%) |

### Changes to the question paper

| Current question paper  | Revised question paper from 2018-19   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours 15 minutes</li> <li>• Worth 60 marks</li> <li>• Contains 3 sections (Section 1: Life in the Classical Greek World - 20 marks; Section 2: Classical Literature- 20 marks and Section 3: Life in the Roman World- 20 marks) for each section)</li> </ul> | <p>Question paper 1- Classical Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour 10 minutes</li> <li>• 30 marks</li> </ul> <p>Question Paper 2- Classical Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour 50 minutes</li> <li>• 50 marks</li> <li>• 2 sections - Life in Classical Greece and Life in the Roman World</li> </ul> |

The question paper will be extended by 20 marks to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. It will be split into two question papers, with a break in-between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

#### Question paper 1 will include:

- the existing 20 mark extended response question (discuss a theme in classical literature)
- a new 10 mark question which will require candidates to compare a modern source/quote to one of the classical themes of study

| Revised Question Paper 1 - Classical Literature   | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 2 x Discuss a theme in classical literature (candidates will have the choice of two themes out of five) | 20            |
| 1 x Compare a modern source/quote with a classical idea   | 10            |

---

---

### Question paper 2 will include:

- the existing 12 mark questions (analyse an issue in classical Greece or the Roman world; evaluate an issue in classical Greece or the Roman world - to what extent...)
- the 8 mark source questions (evaluate the usefulness of the source; how fully do the sources explain...?)
- a new 10 mark question will be added, which requires candidates to compare a modern source/quote to one or more classical ideas.

| Revised Question Paper 2 - Classical Society  | Marks Awarded |
|---|---------------|
| 1 x Evaluate the usefulness of a source   | 8             |
| 1 x How fully do sources A, B and C   | 8             |
| 2 x Analyse an issue in classical Greece or the Roman world (candidates have two questions to choose from)  | 12            |
| 2 x Evaluate an issue in classical Greece or the Roman world (candidates have two questions to choose from)   | 12            |
| 1 x Compare a modern source/quote with a classical idea (this question will appear in one section only. The section it appears in for any given year will change as determined by SQA.) | 10            |

For the 'Compare' question candidates must identify similarities and differences between the modern world and classical aspect using the source provided. Candidates must provide developed comparisons between the source and the classical aspect

### Changes to the assignment

There will be no change to the assignment task, which will now contribute 27% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

### Documents and assessment support materials

More detail on the requirements for the Higher course 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 specimen question paper for each of the new question papers. These will be published by the end of September 2018.

### More information

For more information on changes to assessment in National Qualifications, please visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges)

If you have any queries about these changes, please e-mail [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)