

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

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Design and Manufacture 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: 70 marks (50%) Assignment: 70 marks (50%)	Question paper: 80 marks (47%) Assignment: 90 marks (53%)

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours • Worth 70 marks (50%) • 2 sections (Section 1 – 25 marks; Section 2 – 45 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 15 minutes • Worth 80 marks • 2 sections (Section 1 – 25 marks; Section 2 – 55 marks)

The question paper will be extended by 10 marks to 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.

The duration of the exam will increase by 15 minutes to accommodate the increase in marks.

Changes to the assignment

Current assignment	Revised Assignment from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 70 marks (50%)• Candidates produce a design portfolio• Carried out under some supervision and control• Completed over an extended period of time• Internally assessed by the teacher or lecturer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 90 marks (53%)• Candidates produce a design portfolio• Carried out under some supervision and control• Completed over an extended period of time• Externally assessed by SQA• Issued annually

The assignment will be issued annually and will increase by 20 marks. Following the removal of units from the course, outcome 1 of the Design and Manufacture: Design unit – analyse a design brief and produce a detailed specification – will now be incorporated into the assignment. It provides a natural starting point for 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.

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. As with National 5, the course content will be reviewed and clarified, and presented in a table that clearly identifies what will be assessed, where it will be assessed within the course assessment, and the level of detail required. 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 task to reflect the 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