

Planned changes to Higher ESOL from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher ESOL 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 with our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which includes teachers and lecturers, as well as a range of other subject specialists.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 70 marks (70%) Performance: 30 marks (30%)	Question paper (Listening): 25 marks (20%) Question paper (Reading): 35 marks (25%) Question paper (Writing): 30 marks (25%) Performance: 30 marks (30%)

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question papers from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 40 minutes • Worth 70 marks (70%) • 3 sections (Section A: Listening – 20 marks; Sections B and C: Reading and Writing – 50 marks) 	Three question papers: <p>Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • Worth 25 marks (20%) • Two texts worth 8 marks each and one text worth 9 marks <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 10 minutes • Worth 35 marks (25%) • Two texts worth 12 marks each and one text worth 11 marks <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 40 minutes • Worth 30 marks (25%) • Everyday life task – 15 marks, work or study task – 15 marks

The question paper will be extended by 20 marks to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course. It will be split into three separate question papers, with a break in-between each question paper, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates. The writing question paper will have an increased word count, which will ensure a more balanced coverage of writing within the course assessment.

Performance

There will be no changes to the performance.

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 specimen question paper for each question paper. These 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