

# Planned changes to Higher English from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher English course from session 2018-19 onwards. We are therefore 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 from across Scotland, and representatives of teaching unions. We also held further consultation with teachers and department heads across a range of local authorities.

## Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1: Question paper – Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (30 marks)</li> <li>Component 2: Question paper – Critical Reading (40 marks)</li> <li>Component 3: Portfolio-writing (30 marks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1: Question paper – Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation (30 marks)</li> <li>Component 2: Question paper – Critical Reading (40 marks)</li> <li>Component 3: Portfolio-writing (30 marks)</li> <li>Component 4: Performance-spoken language (achieved/not achieved)</li> </ul>

There will be no changes to the question papers or the portfolio-writing. A new performance-spoken language component will be introduced.

## New performance-spoken language component

The new performance-spoken language component will assess the skills of talking and listening, which are currently assessed through the units. This mirrors the structure of the National 5 course and will ensure that candidates continue to be assessed on these skills once the units are removed from the course.

The performance-spoken language will be assessed as ‘achieved’ or ‘not achieved’ and will be based on existing standards. Candidates will need to achieve the minimum requirements of this component to gain the course award.

A unique code will be assigned to the performance-spoken language component. When entering candidates for the course from session 2018-19 onwards, this code must be entered alongside the course code. We will provide further details of this in due course.

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## Documents and assessment support materials

The revised Higher course specification document 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 coursework assessment task to illustrate the requirements of the new performance-spoken language component. This will be published between the end of May and the end of September 2018.

We will also publish Understanding Standards materials which exemplify assessment of the new performance-spoken language component. This will include videos of candidates' individual presentations and group discussions, and will be accompanied by examples of checklists and commentaries on assessment decisions.

## 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, please e-mail [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)