

Planned changes to Higher Gàidhlig from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Gàidhlig 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 includes teachers.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

| Current course assessment | Revised course assessment |
|---|---|
| Question paper 1: Reading and Writing: 50 marks Question paper 2: Listening: 20 marks Performance-talking: 30 marks | Question paper 1: Reading and Literature 50 marks Question paper 2: Listening for: 20 marks Performance-talking: 30 marks Assignment-writing: 20 marks |

New assignment-writing

| Assignment from 2018-19 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth 20 marks • 1200-1500 words • Produced over time and conducted under some supervision and control • Externally assessed by SQA |

A new assignment will be introduced that will assess candidates' writing skills. This will ensure that the skill of creative or discursive writing continues to be assessed, following the removal of the Creation and Production unit from the course.

Changes to question paper 1 (Reading and Writing)

| Current question paper | Revised question paper from 2018-19 |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Writing • 1 hour 50 minutes • 50 marks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Literature • 1 hour 50 minutes • 50 marks |

With the introduction of the new assignment-writing, which will assess candidates' writing skills more fully, there is no longer a requirement for the skill of writing to be assessed in the question paper. The section of the question paper that is currently called 'Writing' assesses both the skills of writing and critical reading.

No other changes will be made to the question paper, although the marking instructions will be updated to ensure that only the critical reading aspect is assessed during marking.

This mirrors the change to the question paper at National 5.

Question paper 2 (Listening)

There will be no changes to question paper 2.

Performance-talking

There will be no changes to the performance-talking.

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.

A coursework assessment task will be published for the new assignment-writing. It will be available by the end of September 2018. Some minor changes will be made to the specimen question paper for Reading and Writing; it will be renamed Reading and Literature and the marking instructions will be updated to ensure that only critical reading is assessed.

More information

For more information on changes to assessment in National Qualifications, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges

If you have any queries about these changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk