

## Planned changes to Higher Graphic Communication from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Graphic Communication 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, and representatives from professional bodies.

### 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: 90 marks (64%) Assignment: 50 marks (36%)

### Changes to the assignment

Current assignment	Revised Assignment from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worth 70 marks (50%)</li> <li>No time limit</li> <li>Selected from a bank of tasks</li> <li>Internally assessed by the teacher or lecturer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worth 50 marks</li> <li>8 hour time limit</li> <li>Annually issued task</li> <li>Externally assessed by SQA</li> </ul>

The assignment will be reduced by 20 marks and the marks removed from the assignment will be transferred to the question paper. This mirrors the changes to National 5 Graphic Communication that were implemented in session 2017-18.

The assignment task will now be issued on an annual basis and the completed assignments will be submitted to SQA for external marking. The revised course specification will detail the conditions of assessment that must be followed.

### Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours</li> <li>Worth 70 marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 hours 30 minutes</li> <li>Worth 90 marks</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 also be revised to ensure that an appropriate balance of course content is sampled.

## **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 revised specimen question paper and specimen coursework task, along with marking instructions, to reflect the changes to assessment. These materials will be published between the end of May illustrate the requirements of course assessment from session 2018-19 onwards. 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges).

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