

Planned changes to Higher History from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher History 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 and lecturers, and representatives from the Scottish Association of Teachers of History (SATH). We also engaged with groups of teachers and lecturers throughout Scotland.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 60 marks (67%) Assignment: 30 marks (33%)	2 x question papers: 80 marks (73%) Assignment: 30 marks (27%)

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question papers from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 20 minutes • Worth 60 marks • Contains 3 sections (Section 1: Scottish – 20 marks; Section 2: British – 20 marks; Section 3: European and World – 20 marks) 	<p>Question paper 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30 minutes • Worth 44 marks • Contains 2 sections (Section 1: British – 22 marks; Section 2: European and World: 22 marks) <p>Question paper 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30 minutes • Worth 36 marks • Contains 1 section (Scottish)

The current question paper will be extended to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course. It will then be split into two question papers, with a break in-between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

Question paper 1

Question paper 1 will include two sections; Section 1: British and Section 2: European and World. In each section, candidates will answer one extended response question worth 22

marks. Both extended response questions will increase by two marks to recognise the range of responses for historical context and the conclusion.

Question paper 2

Candidates will attempt one part of the question paper. The table below shows a direct comparison of the marks for each question in the current and revised question paper:

Current	Revised
1 x source evaluation question (Evaluate the usefulness...) 6 marks	1 x source evaluation question (Evaluate the usefulness...) 8 marks
1 x source contextualisation question (How fully...) 9 marks	1 x source contextualisation question (How fully...) 10 marks
1 x source comparison (Compare the views of...) 5 marks	1 x 2 source question (How much do Sources reveal about differing interpretations of...) 10 marks
	1 x knowledge question (Explain the reasons why...) 8 marks

The 'explain' question will not be based on a historical source and will require candidates to give an explanation of events, rather than a description.

Assignment

Following the extension of the question paper, the assignment will now contribute 27% of the total assessment mark. There will be no change to the assessment task.

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.

We will publish a specimen question paper for each of the new question papers. 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 on the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk