

Planned changes to Higher Media from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Media 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 professional bodies.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 50 marks (50%) Assignment: 50 marks (50%)	Question paper (Analysing Media Content): 50 marks Question paper (Role of Media): 20 marks* Assignment: 60 marks (50%)

**The marks for both question papers will be combined and scaled from 70 to 60 to give a weighting of 50%*

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours • Worth 50 marks (50%) • Enables candidates to demonstrate their ability to analyse media content in context, analyse the role of media within society, and apply knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy 	<p>Analysing Media question paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 30 minutes* • 50 marks • 2 sections (Section 1 – 40 marks; Section 2 – 10 marks) • Enables candidates to demonstrate their ability to analyse media in context, analyse unseen media texts, and apply knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy <p>Role of Media question paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour • 20 marks • Enables candidates to demonstrate their ability to analyse the role of media within society, and apply knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of media literacy

**exact timing of exam will be confirmed in the course specification document at the end of April 2018.*

From session 2018-19, candidates will sit two Higher Media question papers. The question paper will be extended by 20 marks in total to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The revisions will ensure clear progress from the National 5 question paper. It will be split into two question papers, with a break in-between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

In the Analysing Media Content question paper, the current question 1 (a, b and c), which is worth 30 marks, will be split into two questions (question 1 a and b, and question 2 a and b). Questions 1 and 2 will be worth a total of 40 marks.

A new section will be added to this question paper which requires candidates to analyse unseen media texts. It will be worth 10 marks. Candidates will be presented with three sets of print texts (two film posters, two magazine covers and two advertisements). They will be asked to select one set of texts from the three options and compare and/or contrast them.

The current Role of Media question will become a separate question paper worth 20 marks.

Changes to the assignment

The assignment will increase by 10 marks and will now be worth 60 marks. Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course, the assignment will assess skills from the Creating Media Content unit which are not currently sampled in the course assessment. We will also make revisions to some sections of the assignment to ensure more effective progression from the National 5 assignment.

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 specimen question paper will be published for each question paper to illustrate the requirements of the exam from session 2018-19 onwards. A revised coursework assessment task will also be published to reflect the above changes. 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 about these changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk