

## Planned changes to Higher Modern Languages from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from Higher Modern Languages courses (*Chinese languages, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Spanish, Urdu*) 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 Modern Languages Principal Verifiers and Principal Assessors for Higher, and with our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which includes teachers, lecturers, and representatives from professional bodies.

### Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper 1: Reading (30 marks) and Directed Writing (10 marks) Question paper 2: Listening (20 marks) and Writing (10 marks) Performance-talking: 30 marks	Question paper 1: Reading (30 marks) and Directed Writing (20 marks, scaled to 15 marks) Question paper 2: Listening: 20 marks (scaled to 30 marks) Assignment-writing: 20 marks (scaled to 15 marks) Performance-talking: 30 marks

To recognise the equal status of all four language skills, scaling will be applied to ensure equal weighting.

### New assignment-writing

Assignment from session 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth 20 marks</li> <li>• Candidates produce a piece of extended writing in the modern language, using detailed and complex language</li> <li>• 200-250 words (260-330 Chinese characters) in length</li> <li>• Candidates choose the context of the piece of writing</li> <li>• Produced over time and conducted under a high degree of supervision and control</li> <li>• Externally assessed by SQA</li> </ul>

As with the National 5 course, a new assignment-writing component will be introduced, which draws on features of the current unit assessments. Candidates will produce a piece of writing in one of the contexts of society, learning, employability or culture but they can also include the other context(s) in their writing if they wish. This will increase personalisation and choice and ensure a clear progression from National 5.

## Changes to question paper 1

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<p><b>Question paper 1: Reading and Directed Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour 40 minutes (2 hours 10 minutes for Chinese languages)</li> <li>• Worth 40 marks</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 1: Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 marks</li> <li>• Candidates read one text in the modern language before answering questions in English</li> <li>• 10 marks are awarded for translating part of the text into English</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 2: Directed Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 marks</li> <li>• Candidates produce one piece of writing in the modern language in response to a scenario</li> <li>• Candidates address four mandatory bullet points</li> <li>• 120-150 words or 150-180 Chinese characters in length</li> </ul>	<p><b>Question paper 1: Reading and Directed Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours (2 hours 40 minutes for Chinese languages)</li> <li>• Worth 50 marks</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 1: Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 marks</li> <li>• Candidates read one text in the modern language before answering questions in English</li> <li>• 10 marks are awarded for translating part of the text into English</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 2: Directed Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 marks</li> <li>• Candidates produce one piece of writing in the modern language in response to a scenario</li> <li>• Candidates now address six mandatory bullet points</li> <li>• 150-180 words or 180-240 Chinese characters in length</li> </ul>

## Changes to question paper 2

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<p><b>Question paper 2: Listening and Writing / Listening and Literature (Gaelic Learners) only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hour (1 hour 20 minutes for Chinese languages)</li> <li>• Worth 30 marks</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 1: Listening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 marks</li> <li>• In item 1, candidates listen to one monologue in the modern language and respond to questions on it (8 marks)</li> <li>• In item 2, candidates listen to one conversation in the modern language and respond to questions on it (12 marks)</li> <li>• Candidates respond in English</li> </ul>	<p><b>Question paper 2: Listening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening format unchanged</li> <li>• Section 2: Writing/Literature (Gaelic Learners) only removed following the introduction of assignment-writing</li> <li>• 30 minutes</li> <li>• Worth 20 marks</li> <li>• In item 1, candidates listen to one monologue in the modern language and respond to questions on it (8 marks)</li> <li>• In item 2, candidates listen to one conversation in the modern language and respond to questions on it (12 marks)</li> <li>• Candidates respond in English</li> </ul>

<p><b>Section 2: Writing / Literature (Gaelic (Learners) only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 marks</li> <li>• Candidates write an extended piece of writing in the modern language using detailed and complex language/write a response to a literary text (Gaelic (Learners) only)</li> <li>• 120-150 words (150-180 Chinese characters) in length</li> </ul>	
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## Changes to the performance-talking

Current performance-talking	Revised performance-talking from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth 30 marks</li> <li>• Candidates use detailed and complex spoken language to deliver a presentation and take part in a conversation</li> <li>• 6-8 minutes</li> <li>• Internally assessed, and externally verified by SQA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worth 30 marks</li> <li>• Candidates are no longer required to deliver a presentation</li> <li>• Candidates use detailed and complex spoken language to take part in a discussion only, on at least two contexts</li> <li>• Approximately 10 minutes</li> <li>• Internally assessed, and externally verified by SQA</li> </ul>

## 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 for each question paper as well as new and revised coursework assessment task documents for the assignment-writing and performance-talking components respectively. 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)