

Planned changes to Higher Modern Studies from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Modern Studies 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. We also engaged with teachers across a range of local authorities and the independent school sector.

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 15 minutes • Worth 60 marks • 3 sections (Section 1 – Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom; Section 2 – Social Issues in the United Kingdom; Section 3 – International Issues) • Candidates answer one 20 mark extended response question, two 12 mark extended response questions, one 8 mark source 'conclusion' question and one 8 mark source 'objectivity' question 	<p>Question paper 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 45 minutes • Worth 52 marks (47%) • 3 sections (Section 1 – Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom; Section 2 – Social Issues in the United Kingdom; Section 3 – International Issues) • Candidates will answer two 20 mark extended response questions and one 12 mark extended response question <p>Question paper 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 15 minutes • Worth 28 marks (26%) • Candidates will answer one 10 mark source 'conclusion' question, one 10 mark source 'objectivity' question and one 8 mark source 'reliability' question

From session 2018-19, candidates will sit two Higher Modern Studies question papers. The current question paper is being extended by 20 marks to allow more skills, knowledge and

understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course. It will be split into two separate question papers, with a break in-between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

For question paper 1, candidates will answer two 20 mark extended response questions and one 12 mark extended response. There will be no change to the question types.

Question paper 2 contains source questions. Both the conclusion and objectivity questions will increase from 8 marks to 10 marks and the question paper will also include a new 8 mark reliability question.

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; however we will provide clarification on the use of the research sheet.

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.

We will publish two new specimen question papers to illustrate the requirements of the revised question papers. These 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 regarding the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk