

Planned changes to Higher Music from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Music 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 focus groups and our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which includes teachers and lecturers and representatives from teaching unions.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 40 marks (40%) Performance: 60 marks (60%)	Question paper: 40 marks (35%) Assignment: 30 marks (15%) Performance: 60 marks (50%)*

**The question paper will be scaled from 40 marks to 35 marks, the assignment will be scaled from 30 marks to 15 marks and the performance will be scaled from 60 marks to 50 marks.*

New assignment component

Assignment from session 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 30 marks• Candidates are required to compose one piece of music lasting between a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes• Candidates write a composing review• Open-book assessment, candidates may be given reasonable assistance

As with the National 5 Music course, a new composing assignment will be introduced from session 2018-19. This will ensure that candidates continue to be assessed on composing, which is a key skill of the Higher Music course and is currently assessed through units and unit assessments. The piece of music produced for the Higher assignment must include harmony.

Question paper

There will be no change to the assessment of the Higher Music question paper.

Performance

There will be no change to the assessment of Higher Music performance.

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.

A new coursework assessment will be produced that details the requirements of the new Higher assignment. It 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