

Planned changes to Higher Music Technology from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Music Technology 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 teaching unions.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 30 marks (30%) Assignment: 70 marks (70%)	Question paper: 40 marks (30%) Assignment: 80 marks (70%)*

**The question paper will be scaled from 40 marks to 30 marks and the assignment will be scaled from 80 marks to 70 marks, to maintain the current weightings.*

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • Worth 30 marks (30%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour • Worth 40 marks (30%)

The question paper will be extended by 10 marks to ensure candidates continue to be assessed on the skills, knowledge and understanding that are currently assessed in the Understanding 20th and 21st Century Music unit. The duration of the exam will increase by 15 minutes to accommodate the increase in marks.

Changes to the assignment

Current assignment	Revised Assignment from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth 70 marks (70%) • Candidates plan, implement and evaluate a creative production using music technology • Open-book, candidates may be given reasonable assistance • Externally assessed by SQA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth 80 marks (70%) • Candidates plan, implement and evaluate a creative production using music technology • Open-book, candidates may be given reasonable assistance • Externally assessed by SQA

The assignment will be extended by 10 marks to ensure candidates continue to be assessed on the skills, knowledge and understanding that are currently assessed in the Music Technology Skills unit. The assignment will continue to be one piece of work which demonstrates planning, implementing and evaluation.

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 and coursework assessment task to reflect the changes to assessment. 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 regarding the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk