

Planned changes to Higher Photography from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Photography 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 teachers and lecturers through a focus group and through our National Qualification Support Team (NQST).

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Project: 100 marks (100%)	Project: 100 marks (77%) Question paper: 30 marks (23%)

New question paper

Question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour• Worth 30 marks (23%)• 2 sections (Section 1: Multiple Choice – 10 marks; Section 2: Analysis – 20 marks)• Candidates will answer ten multiple choice questions in Section 1 and two extended response questions in Section 2

A new question paper will be introduced that will assess candidates on their knowledge and understanding of photography from different genres and styles, which is currently assessed in the units only. The question paper will also sample more broadly from across the course and assess candidates on a wider range of knowledge and understanding than can be demonstrated in individual projects. This will include properties of light and image formation, and the use of camera controls and photographic processes for specific effect.

Changes to the project

Current project	Revised project from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 100 marks (100%)• Completed over an extended period of time• 1 hour 30 minutes for evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 marks (77%)• Completed over an extended period of time• Maximum 500 words for evaluation

Content previously assessed in the units relating to knowledge and understanding of the impact of social, cultural, historical and scientific influences on photographers' work and practice will now be included in the research and investigation section of the project.

The project will be revised and restructured to give it more of a focus on practical photography. It will have less written content, with a maximum word count introduced for the evaluation, so that candidates will mainly be assessed on the application of their knowledge and understanding and their practical skills.

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. The course content will be clarified and presented in a table that clearly identifies what will be assessed, and where it will be assessed within the course assessment.

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 specimen question paper to illustrate the requirements of the new question paper from session 2018-19. We will also publish a revised coursework assessment task for the project. 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