

## Planned changes to Higher Physics from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Physics course from session 2018-19 onwards. We are strengthening the course assessment to ensure that candidates continue to be assessed 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 include teachers and lecturers, and representatives from professional bodies.

### Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 130 marks (scaled to contribute 83.3%) Assignment: 20 marks (16.7%)	Two question papers: 155 marks (scaled to contribute 80%) Assignment: 20 marks scaled to 30 (contributes 20%)

There are no additions planned to the content, however additional clarification of depth of treatment will be provided in some areas. Practical work that candidates should experience and be familiar with will be included. This will be practical work that most candidates already experience when undertaking a Higher Physics course. The suggested teaching order of material will be altered in some places, but centres are reminded that they are free to teach the content in any order they wish.

### Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question papers from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours 30 minutes</li> <li>• Worth 130 marks</li> <li>• Contains two sections (Section 1: objective test – 20 marks; Section 2: extended response – 110 marks, scaled to 80 marks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hours (This is the total exam time. The exam will be split into two question papers, with a break in between)</li> <li>• Worth a combined 155 marks (allocation of marks to be confirmed by end of April 2018)</li> <li>• The objective test and extended response sections will now become separate question papers</li> </ul>

From session 2018-19, candidates will sit two Higher Physics question papers. The current question paper is being extended to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be

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sampled, following the removal of units from the course. It will be split into two separate question papers to provide candidates with a break in between.

The timings and marks for each question paper will be confirmed in the revised course specification document, which will be published at the end of April 2018.

## **Assignment**

The assignment assessment task is being revised in order to provide clear progression from the new National 5 assignment. The assignment will be a report of experimental work and research undertaken by the candidate.

The assignment has a total mark allocation of 20 marks that will be scaled to 30 marks. The assignment will contribute 20% of the overall marks available for the course assessment.

## **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. The assignment assessment task, containing instructions for teachers and lecturers, marking instructions and instructions for candidates will be published in May 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 specimen paper for each of the two question papers that will make up the exam. These will illustrate the requirements of the exam from session 2018-19 and 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 about these changes, please e-mail [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)