

Planned changes to Higher Politics from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Politics 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 includes teachers and lecturers.

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 – Political Theory; Section 2 – Political Systems; Section 3 – Political Parties and Elections) • Candidates answer one 20 mark extended response question, two 12 mark extended response questions, one 8 mark source comparison question and one 8 mark electoral data source question 	<p>Question paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 45 minutes • Worth 52 marks (47%) • 3 sections (Section 1 – Political Theory; Section 2 – Political Systems; Section 3 – Political Parties and Elections) • 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 8 mark source comparison question and one 20 mark electoral data source question

From session 2018-19, candidates will sit two Higher Politics 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 question. There will be no change to the question types.

Question paper 2 contains source questions. The 8 mark source comparison question will remain and the electoral data source question will increase to 20 marks.

Assignment

There will be no change to the assignment, which will now contribute 27% of the overall marks available for the course assessment.

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.

We will publish a revised specimen question paper for each question paper, to illustrate the requirements of the exam. 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