

# Planned changes to Higher Psychology from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Psychology 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 our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which includes teachers and lecturers, and representatives from professional bodies. In addition, we consulted with a wide range of teachers and lecturers.

## Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 60 marks (60%) Assignment: 40 marks (40%)	Question paper: 80 marks (67%) Assignment: 40 marks (33%)

## Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours</li> <li>• Worth 60 marks (60%)</li> <li>• 3 sections (Individual Behaviour – 20 marks; Social Behaviour – 20 marks; Research – 20 marks)</li> <li>• Open choice of optional topic in each section</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours 40 minutes</li> <li>• Worth 80 marks (67%)</li> <li>• 2 sections (Individual Behaviour – 40 marks; Social Behaviour – 40 marks)</li> <li>• Each section will have a choice of one from three optional topics</li> </ul>

The question paper will be extended by 20 marks to allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. The Research section will be removed, however research will be more widely sampled within the remaining sections of the question paper. Candidates will also continue to be assessed on their research skills within the assignment.

The duration of the exam will increase by 40 minutes to accommodate the additional marks.

## Changes to the assignment

The assignment will now contribute 33% of the overall marks available for the assignment.

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Candidates will no longer be required to describe their method, materials and sample. Instead, they will be asked to justify their choice of method and sampling technique.

General advice, which is currently provided in the assignment briefs, will be included in the coursework assessment task document instead. As such, the assignment briefs will no longer need to be republished on an annual basis.

## **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 to reflect the changes to the question paper. We will also publish a revised coursework assessment task document that includes the general information currently included in the assignment briefs, along with clarified marking instructions for the report section. 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges).

If you have any queries regarding the above changes, please e-mail [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)