

Planned changes to Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies 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 surveyed teachers who attended our Understanding Standards events as well as those active in the subject specific social media group.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Question paper: 60 marks Assignment: 30 marks	Question paper 1: 60 marks Question paper 2: 20 marks Assignment: 30 marks

Changes to the question paper

Current question paper	Revised question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 15 minutes • Worth 60 marks • 3 sections (Section 1: World Religion – 20 marks; Section 2: Morality and Belief – 20 marks; Section 3 – Religious and Philosophical Questions – 20 marks) 	<p>Question paper 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours 15 minutes • Worth 60 marks • 2 sections (Section 1: World Religion – 30 marks; Section 2: Morality and Belief – 30 marks) <p>•</p> <p>Question Paper 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 minutes • Worth 20 marks • 1 section – Religious and Philosophical Questions

From session 2018-19, candidates will sit two Higher RMPS 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 then be split into two separate question papers, with a break in-between, to ensure the timing is manageable for candidates.

Assignment

The assignment will now contribute 27% of the total assessment mark. There will be no change to the assignment task. The Marking Instructions will be revised.

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 specimen question paper for each question paper to reflect the above changes. It 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