

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

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Sociology 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. 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 (67%) Assignment: 30 marks (33%)	Question paper: 80 marks (73%) Assignment: 30 marks (27%)

### 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 (67%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours 40 minutes</li><li>• Worth 80 marks (73%)</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.

### Changes to the assignment

The assignment will now contribute 27% of the overall marks available for the assignment.

The explanation of the differences between a common sense and a sociological explanation, in relation to the topic chosen (4 marks), will be removed from the assignment. Instead, candidates will be required to give an explanation of the sociological significance of the topic chosen (4 marks). As with the National 5 assignment, candidates will no longer be permitted to use the mandatory study for their assignment.

---

## **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 and coursework assessment task to reflect the changes to assessment. 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)