

## History

### The Qualifications Team

**Denise Dunlop**

Qualifications Manager

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Qualifications Officer

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Subject Implementation Manager

## Diet 2018

### Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for History. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the [History subject pages](#) of our website.

## Coursework

### Conditions of assessment for coursework

During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment. Conditions of assessment for coursework must be applied consistently in all centres as this ensures fairness for all candidates.

Resource sheets (also referred to as research evidence or processed information sheets) **must** be submitted to SQA with candidate evidence. They show that candidates have undertaken the research stage of their coursework and enable markers to check if the candidate has copied information directly from the resource sheet, as marks are not awarded for this. This ensures that marks are awarded equitably and fairly across all candidates.

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In addition, it is very important that teachers and lecturers adhere to the conditions of assessment when preparing candidates for their assessment. Teachers and lecturers must ensure that the correct assessment conditions are applied to balance the need for support without giving too much assistance. For example, drafting, redrafting and providing detailed feedback for individual candidates is not appropriate as this could compromise the authenticity of the evidence submitted to SQA, and potentially advantage or disadvantage candidates. Giving too much assistance can lead to over-direction which is a form of malpractice and threatens the integrity and validity of assessment. SQA investigates all reported instances where assessment conditions have not been applied. This is to protect the national standard of our qualifications and ensure fairness for all candidates across Scotland.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification (National 5 and Higher)
- course assessment specification (Advanced Higher)
- coursework assessment task

You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

## Submitting coursework

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

## Higher

### Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources may include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment.
- **Webinar recordings** — recordings of CPD webinar sessions delivered by our subject implementation managers, to guide you through the changes to assessment.
- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment.

You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

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Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards).

## Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject. There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the [History subject landing page](#).

## Advanced Higher

### Changes to assessment in Advanced Higher courses from session 2019–20

We will remove units and unit assessments from Advanced Higher courses for session 2019–20. We have started our review of the Advanced Higher course assessments and we have been working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to identify the appropriate changes for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses and representatives of professional associations.

New and revised Advanced Higher materials will be published as follows:

<b>End of April 2019</b>	Revised Advanced Higher course specifications
<b>End of May to end of September 2019</b>	Course support notes New and revised specimen question papers New and revised coursework assessment tasks

We will provide further information about the changes to Advanced Higher assessment by the end of January 2019.

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## Further information and guidance

Please note the following summary of the changes to Higher History from session 2018–19.

- There are two question papers:

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper British, European and world history	44	1 hour and 30 minutes
Component 2: question paper Scottish history	36	1 hour and 30 minutes
Component 3: assignment	30	1 hour and 30 minutes — see 'course assessment' section in course specification

- In the British, European and world history question paper, we have increased the essays by 2 marks (from 20 marks to 22 marks), to recognise the range of responses for historical context and the conclusion. We have updated the marking instructions in the specimen question paper to reflect these changes.
- A newly-introduced 10-mark two-source comparative question (How much do Sources ... reveal about differing interpretations of) is now in the Scottish history question paper. This question requires candidates to identify the main views of two sources.
- A newly-introduced 8-mark 'explain' question (Explain the reasons...) is now in the Scottish history question paper. This question requires candidates to identify a key point from a historical issue and provide a relevant explanation (rather than a description). The 'explain' question will not be based on a historical source.
- In the Scottish history question paper we have increased the number of marks for the 'Evaluate the usefulness' question from 6 to 8, and we have also increased the number of marks for the 'How fully' question from 9 to 10.
- We have arranged the course content for the British, European and world history question paper into bullets to reflect more closely the questions asked in this question paper. Other relevant historical factors will however continue to be credited.

### Higher assignment resource sheet

A new resource sheet template for the Higher History assignment is available to download from the Higher History subject page under the 'Coursework' tab. The template now has a section for references. In addition to a summary of the factors and key knowledge points, the resource sheet should also be used to provide the origin and quote used as a reference.

The template is available either in Word format for completion electronically, or in PDF format for printing and completion by hand.

### Advanced Higher project–dissertation

As highlighted in the 2018 course report for Advanced Higher History, centres should ensure candidates are aware of the academic courtesy expected in presenting dissertations — double line spacing, font size 11, and page numbers. Footnoting is also vital so that markers can verify the origin of sources quoted.

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## Advanced Higher History dissertation titles

We have updated the approved list of dissertations and it can be found on the Advanced Higher History subject page, under the 'Coursework' tab. The list is for exemplification purposes; where candidates devise an alternative title, centres may submit titles for feedback.

## Subject Implementation Manager

Glenn Logan has been seconded to SQA as Subject Implementation Manager for History. Glenn has been working in Forres Academy as a Faculty Head of Social Subjects for a number of years and is an experienced SQA marker. Glenn will be involved in supporting centres in the delivery of the National Qualifications.

## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. The newsletter is sent to your SQA co-ordinator and you can also subscribe directly at <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/centrenews/step1>.

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#### Contact us

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