

## Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

### The Qualifications Team

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## Diet 2018

### Changes to documents following Diet 2018

#### National 5 coursework assessment task

During the 2018 diet, minor changes were made to the wording in the detailed marking instructions for the National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies assignment in order to provide further clarity in relation to how marks can be awarded.

### Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies. 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 [Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies subject pages](#) of our website.

## Coursework

### Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions 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.

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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

### Revised Higher documents and assessment support materials

The Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies course is now assessed through the following components:

Component 1	Question paper	60 marks	2 hours 15 minutes
Component 2	Question paper	20 marks	45 minutes
Component 3	Assignment	30 marks	1 hour 30 minutes (write-up)

We have published a revised course specification and revised assessment support materials for the Higher course, which detail the requirements of the revised course assessments from session 2018–19 onwards. The documents are available from the [Higher subject web page](#) on our website. Further information on the changes to documents and assessment support materials is provided below.

### Course specification

In April 2018, we published a revised course specification which provides detailed information about the Higher course and course assessment, including the conditions of assessment that must be followed. The revised document was produced by merging the previous course specifications, course assessment specifications and general assessment information into a single, streamlined document. Course support notes have been added to the course specification as an appendix.

Centres should note that additional guidance has been added to the religious and philosophical questions section of the course support notes to provide suggested sources to support learning and teaching.

Centres should also note that the debate surrounding origins remains unchanged. There are three debates within this topic: religious explanations for the origins of life vs scientific explanations for the origins of life; religious explanations for the origins of the universe vs scientific explanations for the origins of the universe; and religious explanations for the

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origins of life and the universe vs scientific explanations for the origins of life and the universe.

The Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies course specification is available from the [Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies subject page](#) on our website.

### **Specimen question paper**

The specimen question papers and marking instructions have been revised to reflect the new assessment model. The two question papers are structured as follows:

Component 1 — question paper 1 — world religion; morality and belief

Component 2 — question paper 2 — religious and philosophical questions

The specimen question papers are available on the [Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies web page](#).

### **Coursework assessment task**

No change has been made to the assessment task for the Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies assignment. However, centres should note the changes to the mark allocation for skills, knowledge and understanding and the wording of the marking instructions.

The coursework assessment task is available on the [Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies web page](#).

## **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 recent online 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 them via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

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

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## 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 [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.

## Further information and guidance

### Additional CPD support

Where any particular areas of concern are identified which are not addressed by our support materials, we will offer free continuing professional development (CPD) training. This is subject to request and provided by one of our Subject Implementation Managers, Leigh Anderson or Sara Dhesi. To find out more about this service visit our [CPD page](#).

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#### Contact us

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