

## Sociology

### The Qualifications Team

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## Diet 2018

### Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Sociology. 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 [Sociology 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.

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
- 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.

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## 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.
- **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.

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 [Sociology subject landing page](#).

## Further information and guidance

### Revised Higher documents

#### 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. In August 2018, course support notes were added to the course specification as an appendix.

The Higher Sociology course specification is available on the [Higher Sociology subject page](#).

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## Specimen question paper

The question paper for Higher Sociology has increased from 60 to 80 marks. The time allowed for the question paper has also increased and is now 2 hours and 40 minutes. The three sections remain: 'human society', 'culture and identity', and 'social issues'. Human society is now worth 30 marks, and the other two sections are worth 25 marks each. A revised specimen question paper was developed for Higher Sociology and can be found on the [Higher Sociology subject page](#).

## Coursework assessment task

The course assessment retains an assignment worth 30 marks. Very few changes have been made in relation to the assignment. The main change is that candidates must no longer use any of the mandatory research studies from the course in their assignment. These are:

- Cohen, S. (1972) *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*.
- Goldthorpe, J. H. (1972) *Oxford Mobility Studies*.
- Blanden, J. and Machin, S. (2008) *Up and Down the Generational Income Ladder in Britain: Past Changes and Future Prospects*.

A revised coursework assessment task can be found on the [Higher Sociology subject page](#).

## Stay informed

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