

Equality Review Summary



Qualification	Sociology
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Level	Higher
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REVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review	21/01/2019
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Coursework and/ or Question Paper revisions

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. The question paper will be extended by 20 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 40 minutes, to 2 hours 40 minutes. Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled, following the removal of units from the course.

Equality & inclusion issues

No changes have been made to the aims, rationale or content of the course. Only the Course assessment have changed as outlined above. This means that the original equality review carried out and attached remains valid and fit for purpose. It should be noted however, that the Units, which were a feature of the original ERF, have now been removed.

Changes to the conditions of assessment for coursework

Where the conditions of assessment have changed to be more controlled, for example, where the time allowed for a task or assignment has been restricted or where a task or assignment has to be completed in one sitting, some disabled candidates may be potentially disadvantaged. However, this disadvantage should be mitigated by the provision of the appropriate assessment arrangements.

Extending the question paper

Disability

Some disabled candidates may be adversely affected by the introduction of an extended question paper. For example, candidates with physical disabilities or those unable to concentrate for extended periods may have difficulties demonstrating their attainment. Other disabled candidates such as those with mental health difficulties or emotional behavioural difficulties may find the longer examination experience overly stressful.

Religion and belief

Some candidates may experience fatigue and be adversely affected in an extended question paper because they are fasting.

Actions that will mitigate any adverse impact outlined above	
<u>Disability</u> While it is not possible to exempt disabled learners from the external QP at Higher where this is an integral assessment component, the provision of appropriate assessment arrangements and other supportive practices will mitigate the adverse impact for many disabled candidates. For example, by the careful consideration of the amount of extra time being requested and by further consideration being given as to whether there are any other more appropriate assessment arrangements such as using ICT and/or assistive technologies or the inclusion of rest breaks.	
<u>Religion and Belief</u> It is not possible for SQA to take all possible religious festivals and periods of observance into account when constructing the exam timetable. SQA will take into account, through its exceptional circumstances process, any negative impact such as a candidate taking unwell caused by fasting during an examination.	
ORIGINAL NATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT EQUALITY REVIEW	
Date of review	13/01/2015
Summary of Conclusion and recommendation	
The open and flexible evidence requirements for this Course allow learners to provide evidence for assessment in a way and format that suits their needs. A range of support for learners will continue to be appropriate, such as scribes, readers and assistive technologies/ICT. Support Notes will guide centres to apply sensitivity to their learners when selecting topics and issues for learning and assessment. It is also recommended that any case study, scenario or stimulus materials be inclusive and do not promote stereotypes. Teachers and lecturers will be advised in Support Notes to be vigilant to signs of discomfort and distress in learners when covering potentially sensitive topics or issues. Overall, It is not envisaged that exemption will be required.	