

## History

### The Qualifications Team

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## Changes to assessment at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher

As announced by the Deputy First Minister in September 2016, units and unit assessments are being removed from National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses on a phased basis over three years:

- National 5 from 2017–18
- Higher from 2018–19
- Advanced Higher from 2019–20

For more information, including a Q&A on the implications of these changes, please visit our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges)

### Units that were previously part of National 5 courses

The units that were previously part of National 5 courses are now freestanding units at SCQF level 5. They can no longer be used to contribute to the achievement of a National 5 course.

We will remove all references to National 5 courses from the unit specifications, unit support notes and unit assessment support packs in due course, and the unit support notes will be added to the unit specifications as an appendix. The unit specifications will also be relocated to a new freestanding units web page for each subject.

Further information on the timescales for this will be provided in our weekly Centre News newsletter.

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## Changes to assessment in National 5

The National 5 History course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks
Component 1: question paper	80
Component 2: assignment	20

### Question paper

Knowledge and understanding (KU) questions:

- KU1 (describe) questions will be worth 4 marks (there will be two in the question paper).
- KU2 (explain) questions will be worth 6 marks (there will be one in each section of the question paper).
- KU3 (short essay) questions will be worth 9 marks — an additional mark available for an introduction (there will be two in the question paper).

Source-handling skills (SH) questions:

- SH1 (evaluation) questions will be worth 5 marks (one will be based on a primary source and one will be based on a secondary source).
- SH2 (comparison) questions will be worth 4 marks (one will have sources which agree and one will have sources which disagree).
- SH3 (contextualisation) questions will be worth 6 marks (there will be one in each section of the question paper).

The models which make up the question paper are now asymmetric whereas before each section had 20 marks. The models will rotate in a random order.

The question paper will sample all four key issues from each of the three sections of the course.

The time allocated to the completion of the question paper has increased to 2 hours and 20 minutes.

### Assignment

While the assignment continues to have 20 marks, there has been a minor change in the distribution of marks for the following:

- E. Evaluating the overall impact of different factors (which now has 3 marks)
  - H. Supporting a conclusion with reasons (which now has 1 mark)
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## Clarification of course content in the National 5 course

The course content was reviewed and refined to provide greater clarity, and to more closely reflect what will be examined in the revised course assessment.

Full details of the course content can be found in the National 5 History course specification, 2017-18, found on the [National 5 History web page](#).

## Changes to assessment in Higher courses from session 2018–19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from Higher courses from session 2018–19 and we have started our review of the Higher course assessments. For this, we are working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses, and representatives of professional associations. We will also meet with a sample of teachers to gauge their views on the proposed changes and the implications of these.

The publication of new and revised Higher materials will follow a similar timescale to National 5:

<b>End of April 2018</b>	Revised Higher course specifications
<b>End of May to end of September 2018</b>	Course support notes New/revised specimen question papers New/revised coursework assessment tasks

## Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that the specified assessment conditions for coursework are consistently applied in all centres. The following documents detail the specific conditions that must be followed in each assessment:

- course specification
- course assessment specification (Higher and Advanced Higher only)
- coursework assessment task

In addition to these documents, you must also refer to the following document, which is available from the coursework section of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher web pages:

- [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#)

This document 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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# Changes to documents

## Revised National 5 documents and assessment support materials

Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the National 5 History course, we have strengthened the course assessment to ensure it assesses the full content of the course.

We have published revised course specifications and revised assessment support materials for the National 5 course, which detail the requirements of the revised course assessments from session 2017–18 onwards. The documents are available from the National 5 subject web pages at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects). Further information on the changes to documents and assessment support materials is provided below.

### Course specification

In April 2017, we published a revised course specification which provides detailed information about the National 5 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 the ‘mandatory content’ has been renamed ‘key issues’ and ‘illustrative areas’ has been renamed ‘description of content’.

In September 2017, several minor amendments were made to the course specification as follows:

#### Section 2: Historical Study: British

- Part 4: Changing Britain, 1760–1914 Page 12 *Reasons for the decline of other forms of transport such as canals and railways* has been amended to read *Reasons for the decline of other forms of transport such as canals*.

#### Section 3: Historical Study: European and World

- Part 3: USA 1850–80 Page 16 the *Battle of Wounded Knee (1890)* has been removed.
- Part 9: World War II, 1939–45 Page 22 *Japanese prisoners of war* has been amended to read *Prisoners of war of the Japanese*.

The National 5 History course specification is available on the [National 5 History subject page](#).

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## Specimen question paper

In October 2017, the following amendments to the specimen question paper marking instructions were made to provide further clarity:

- On page 3 of the marking instructions (general marking principles), a sentence has been added to the sample or exemplar introduction for the 9 mark question: 'To what extent was genuine concern for the poor the main reason why the Liberals introduced their welfare reforms between 1906 and 1914?'

The introduction now reads:

*The Liberals introduced their welfare reforms between 1906 and 1914 for many reasons. One of these was genuine concern for the poorest in society but concerns about both national efficiency and the rise of the Labour Party were also clear motives. (1 mark for an introduction — factors)*

- On page 4, under D, after 'Example response', the following question has been added: ***(Evaluate the usefulness of Source A as evidence of the effectiveness of Liberal Welfare Reforms):***
- On page 4, under E, after 'Example response', the following question has been added: ***(Compare the views of Sources A and B about the effectiveness of King Charles I as a ruler):***
- On page 5, under F, after 'Example response', the following question has been added: ***(How fully does Source B explain the reasons why the Liberals introduced their reforms):***

There are no further changes to the specimen question paper.

## Coursework assessment task

A revised marking grid for the assignment will be used from session 2017–18 although there is no change to the content of the assignment or to the total marks available. The changes relate to the number of marks available in two sections of the assignment. There will be 3 marks (increased from 2 marks) for Section E (*Evaluating the overall impact of different factors*) and there will be 1 mark (reduced from 2 marks) for Section H (*Supporting a conclusion with reasons*).

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## Changes to documents following Diet 2017

### Advanced Higher History: coursework assessment task

The marking grid for the project–dissertation has been updated following the 2017 exam diet. The assessment task for Advanced Higher History has been updated to reflect the changes to the marking grid and is available on our secure site through your SQA co-ordinator.

## Supportive resources

### National 5 audio presentation

We have published an audio presentation that focuses on the requirements of the revised National 5 course assessment.

You can access the audio presentation from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 History web page](#).

## Further information and guidance

### Understanding Standards materials

There is a range of material available, including examples of candidate evidence with commentaries, as part of our Understanding Standards programme. This material is for teachers and lecturers to help them develop their understanding of the standards required for assessment. As new material is developed, we will publish this information in our weekly Centre News. More information on Understanding Standards material for this subject can be found on our [Understanding Standards](#) website.

## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

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