Planned changes to Advanced Higher History from session 2019–20

We are making some minor changes to the Advanced Higher History course assessment in light of units being removed from the course.

The course assessment will continue to have the following structure:

- Component 1 — question paper 90 marks
- Component 2 — project-dissertation 50 marks

However, we have decided to remove one field of study from the course due to low uptake — Italy: the Renaissance in the 15th and early 16th centuries. We will also update the course documents to provide clarity on the knowledge and skills required.

Advanced Higher History question paper

We will remove one section (field of study — Italy: the Renaissance in the 15th and early 16th centuries) from the question paper.

There will be increased transparency in the essay marking grid regarding the skills expectations in the D and C mark ranges, with the main addition being the requirement to make general reference to historical perspectives for (10–12) marks.

Advanced Higher History project–dissertation

The Advanced Higher History dissertation will include an introduction in the form of an abstract as part of the structure. The dissertation marking grid will show progression in the use of primary sources and will acknowledge the use of referencing. This is to maintain standards and provide clear guidance.

Revised course specification

By the end of April 2019, we will publish a revised course specification that combines the current course specification, course assessment specification and coursework general assessment information. We will add course support notes to the course specification as an appendix by the end of September 2019, to provide further clarity and guidance.

Assessment support materials

Between the end of May and the end of September 2019, we will publish a revised specimen question paper and marking instructions to reflect the changes to the question paper and marking instructions. We will also publish the coursework assessment task with revised marking instructions.

January 2019
National Qualifications Support Team
To help us make the appropriate changes to the Advanced Higher course assessment, we consulted with our National Qualifications Support Team, which includes teachers and lecturers.

More information
For more information on changes to assessment in National Qualifications, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk.