***I would like to request the information as to how the decision was reached to 1st of all drop the assignment from Higher History and then to find out who was consulted on which topics to not assess this year in Advanced Higher History.***

***The decisions, it seems, were taken without the consultation of practitioners and as such I would like to know who was involved in the making decision and how the decision was reached.***

The original decision to remove the assignment from Higher History and to publish sampling details for the AH History question paper component, was taken in October 2020. This was agreed after analysing the responses to the full public consultation on NQ subject modifications for the 2020/21 session.

For session 2021/22, course modifications are still required to take account of the loss of learning and restrictions on time as learners move into the next academic year. The default position is that the agreed modifications put in place last session remain in place for session 2021-2022.

SQA qualification teams did reflect on the experience of this session and feedback from their senior appointees and from key stakeholder groups, including centres and subject National Qualification Support Teams (NQSTs), which includes a range of practitioners. See details below:

**Higher History**

The restoration of the assignment for N5 and Higher History was given consideration. However, it was decided to take a consistent approach for all social subjects and continue with the existing modifications.

Removing the assignment relieves some pressure in terms of preparation for teachers, lecturers, and candidates. This will increase learning and teaching time for the other areas of the course.

Cognisance was also taken of the potential difficulties posed by a timed write – up if there was to be a disruption to learning and teaching during the 2021–22 session.

**Advanced Higher History**

The approach to the 2020/21 modifications has been retained. This is to inform centres of 2 areas/Key issues (from 10) not sampled in the (2022) question paper in each of the 10 Fields of Study.  The actual key areas/issued not sampled are determined by the make up of the draft 2022 question paper. This was agreed by the SQA subject team including our senior appointees.

Teachers and lecturers can deliver the course as normal but will be free to decide on timing and depth in relation to the key issues which will not be assessed in the 2022 question paper. Candidates able to study the 10 key issues may be well prepared for the assessed areas. Informing centres of two key issues which will not be directly assessed in the 2022 question paper could free up time for focused learning, teaching and assessment.

**Consultation**

Noting the desire for relatively minimal change to the modifications and acknowledging the timelines for all stakeholders and the current focus on delivering the Alternative Certification Model for 2021, the NQ 2021 group agreed that there was no requirement for SQA to engage in another full public consultation for this exercise. Intelligence around the original consultation feedback and reflections from this session with centres and key NQSTs was sufficient. SQA’s Qualifications Committee also endorsed this approach.