



Survey of History Teachers

Survey opened: Saturday 10th October

Survey closed: Monday 19th October

Total Number of Respondents: 188

Advertised via: Scottish History Team on Facebook, SATH Team on Teams and via SATH Email List.

Summary of Results:

In summary there is no universal or uniform feeling across History teachers in Scotland. At all three levels there is a mix of those who are happy, neutral or disappointed in their views of the proposed changes.

National 5

National 5 proposes the biggest changes from normal for this year's assessment, and so would likely see the highest numbers of teachers expressing disappointment. 48.4% of the teachers surveyed expressed either "quite disappointed" or "very disappointed" in the proposed changes, with 30.9% expressing either "quite happy" or "very happy".

There were 159 respondents who offered suggestions for National 5, and these were categorised into four areas (assessment, evidence, "bring back the exam" and other), with some respondents giving suggestions for more than one category. An overwhelming number of respondents (98) requested support with assessment materials, including the release of the unused 2020 paper, whilst a significant number of respondents (55) sought support with evidence gathering and guarantee of national standards. A small number of respondents (14) sought advice on other matters relating to National 5 or requested speedier information from SQA. A small number of respondents (13) chose not to offer suggestions for moving forward but requested a reinstatement of the exam or assignment.

Higher

The responses to Higher contained 11 responses that were "not applicable" and so these responses have been removed from the totals (original percentages can be seen in the table below). Overall Higher show the lowest percentage total for "disappointed" across the three levels with 28.8% of respondents choosing those two levels, and with over half the respondents suggesting they were "quite happy" or "very happy" (50.9%) with the proposed changes.

There were 105 suggestions given by respondents to the survey, however just under a quarter of responses (25) said "nothing", "not applicable", or other such phraseology. Of the remaining suggestions these were again categorised into similar areas as for National 5 (assessment, evidence, "bring back the assignment" and other), with again some respondents providing more than one suggestion. The largest number of suggestions were

centred around more support with assessments (36), including the release of the unused 2020 paper as well as more examples of the “two source” question in the source paper. There were a plethora of other suggestions ranging from improved communication with teachers to revision notes and materials. A larger number (24) than for National 5 chose not to offer suggestions for moving forward but expressed their frustrations at the removal of the assignment.

Advanced Higher

The responses to Advanced Higher contained 76 responses that were “not applicable” and so these responses have been removed from the totals (original percentages can be seen in the table below). Of the 112 “applicable” responses, views were very evenly spread, with 32.2% respondents “very disappointed” or “quite disappointed” with the changes to Advanced Higher and 28.5% respondents “very happy” or “quite happy” at the changes. This may reflect that fewer changes were made to the Advanced Higher course.

There were 66 suggestions given by respondents to the survey, however just under a third of these (21) said “nothing”, “not applicable”, or other such phraseology. Of the remaining 45 suggestions these were categorised into four areas, assessment and evidence, resourcing of the dissertation, “frustration over non-assessed areas” and other. The largest number of suggestions (22) related to the information provided by the SQA as to the two areas not being assessed in this year’s examination, with most respondents feeling frustrated that this came too late, and these topic areas had already been covered by many schools. There were fewer suggestions from respondents with regards to assessment or evidence gathering support (8) as there had been for the other two levels. However a small number of respondents (8) were concerned about the ability to access resources for dissertations due to COVID and were seeking support.

Analysis of Survey:

Following the changes to National Assessments for the session 20-21 a survey was produced by the office bearers of the Scottish Association of Teachers of History, and this was shared with History teachers on Saturday 10th October. The survey was shared via the SATH email list of 318 teachers; the Scottish History teacher page on Facebook; and on the SATH Team on Microsoft Teams. Reminders of the survey were sent on Facebook and Teams on Friday 16th and Monday 19th October. The survey closed to respondents at 23.59 on Monday 19th October. There were a total of 188 respondents to the survey.

There was no data collected on the background of respondents such as local authority, school status, or indeed teaching experience of the respondent. This does have some bearing on the efficacy of the results as we are unable to ascertain whether or not the findings would differ from geographical area, school status or teacher experience. However the suggestions in questions 2, 4 and 6 are similar, suggesting that the necessary support suggestions are universal.

As the survey did not require an email address to be provided, as to allow confidentiality of respondents, there is the possibility of multiple responses from a respondent. This may slightly affect the efficacy of the result and may lower the number of individual respondents, although some departments may have worked together on their responses. The data remains in the findings and should be considered when making judgements upon the results. The raw data for the survey can be accessed via [LINK](#).

Analysis of Results - National 5

Question 1:

How happy are you with the proposed changes for History at National 5?

	Total	Percentage
Very Happy	9	4.8%
Quite Happy	49	26.1%
Neither Happy or Disappointed	38	20.2%
Quite Disappointed	52	27.7%
Very Disappointed	39	20.7%
Not Applicable	1	0.5%

Question 2:

What could SQA, Education Scotland, SATH or other body provide to help you with regards to the National 5 course this session?

Providing assessment materials: <i>(NABS, 2020 paper, question bank)</i>	98
Support with evidence and standards: <i>(What needed and how guarantee standards across country)</i>	55
Bring back exam/assignment:	13
Other:	14

Findings were distilled and categorised into the above four areas. Some respondents gave more than one suggestion. Full access to the data (including our categorisation) can be found [LINK](#).

Analysis of Results - Higher

Question 3:

How happy are you with the proposed changes for History at Higher?

	Total	Percentage	Excluding N/A
Very Happy	24	12.8%	13.6%
Quite Happy	66	35.1%	37.3%
Neither Happy or Disappointed	36	19.1%	20.3%
Quite Disappointed	35	18.6%	19.8%
Very Disappointed	16	8.5%	9.0%
Not Applicable	11	5.9%	XX

Question 4:

What could SQA, Education Scotland, SATH or other body provide to help you with regards to the Higher course this session?

Providing assessment materials: (NABS, 2020 paper, question bank)	36
Support with evidence and standards: (What needed and how guarantee standards across country)	8
Bring back assignment:	24
Other:	16
Nothing or not applicable:	25

Findings were distilled and categorised into the above five areas. Some respondents gave more than one suggestion. Some respondents responded with the phrase “as above” which was referring to their suggestion for National 5, it was not possible for this information to be extracted and so these responses were counted under “Nothing or Not applicable”.

Full access to the data (including our categorisation) can be found [LINK](#).

Analysis of Results - Advanced Higher

Question 5:

How happy are you with the proposed changes for History at Advanced Higher?

	Total	Percentage	Excluding N/A
Very Happy	10	5.3%	8.9%
Quite Happy	22	11.7%	19.6%
Neither Happy or Disappointed	44	23.4%	39.2%
Quite Disappointed	21	11.2%	18.8%
Very Disappointed	15	8%	13.4%
Not Applicable	76	40.4%	XX

Question 6:

What could SQA, Education Scotland, SATH or other body provide to help you with regards to the Advanced Higher course this session?

Providing assessment or evidence support materials: (2020 paper, question bank)	8
Help with resourcing the dissertation due to COVID	8
Frustration with sections not assessed:	22
Other:	10
Nothing or not applicable:	21

Findings were distilled and categorised into the above five areas. Some respondents gave more than one suggestion. Some respondents responded with the phrase “as above” which was referring to their suggestion for National 5 or Higher, it was not possible for this information to be extracted and so these responses were counted under “Nothing or Not applicable”.

Full access to the data (including our categorisation) can be found [LINK](#).