

# National Course modification summary: Modern Studies



## National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher: session 2021–22

### National 4

#### Added value unit

The requirement to complete the added value unit is removed for session 2021–22. To achieve the overall course award for National 4 this session, candidates must pass all other contributing units in the National 4 course. You must submit a 'pass' result for the added value unit to ensure your candidates are certificated for the course award.

You are not required to gather evidence for the added value unit this session; however, it is important you give candidates opportunities to develop and demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding outlined in the National 4 added value unit specification, where possible. This will support your candidates as they progress to further learning and assessment at SCQF level 5.

### National 5

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	80	2 hours and 20 minutes

#### Question paper

- ◆ the 8-mark 'explain' question will be in Section 1: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom
- ◆ in each option within each section, there will be a subtopic area of content which **will not** be directly assessed in the 2022 question paper. These subtopics are given in italics below:

- **Section 1: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom**

- Option 1: Democracy in Scotland**

- Influence*

- Option 2: Democracy in the United Kingdom**

- Influence*

- **Section 2: Social Issues in the United Kingdom**

- Option 1: Social Inequality**

- Nature of social inequality*

- Option 2: Crime and the Law**

- Nature of crime*

— **Section 3: International Issues**

**Option 1: World Power**

*Effectiveness in tackling social and economic issues*

**Option 2: World Issue**

*Evaluation of international organisation(s) in tackling the conflict/issue*

The modification to the subtopics that will be assessed, along with guidance on the 8-mark 'explain' question, is intended to help ease the pressure on learning and teaching.

We recommend that centres aim to deliver the course as normal, however teachers and lecturers are free to decide on timing, depth of delivery, and any internal assessment of the subtopics not being assessed in the 2022 question paper.

**Assignment**

The coursework component (assignment) has been removed for session 2021–22.

Removing the assignment means less class time is required for planning, organising, and developing the assignment. This allows for increased learning and teaching time for the course.

**Higher**

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper 1	52	1 hour and 45 minutes
Question paper 2	28	1 hour and 15 minutes

**Question paper 1**

The number of optional extended-response questions in each section will increase:

- ◆ Section 1: increase in the number of extended-response questions from three to four
- ◆ Section 2: increase in the number of extended-response questions from two to three
- ◆ Section 3: increase in the number of extended-response questions from two to three

Candidates will still be required to answer one question from each section.

This modification is intended to help ease the pressure on learning and teaching by providing the option for candidates to be taught a narrower range of topics while still enabling them to be sufficiently prepared for the question paper.

**Question paper 2**

No changes.

**Assignment**

The coursework component (assignment) has been removed for session 2021–22.

Removing the assignment means less class time is required for planning, organising, and developing the assignment. This allows for increased learning and teaching time for the course.

### **Advanced Higher**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Question paper	90	3 hours
Project–dissertation	50	see 'Course assessment' section in the Advanced Higher Modern Studies Course Specification

#### **Question paper**

Within each section, each topic area will now contain a choice of two 30-mark extended-response questions. Candidates will still be required to answer two questions from separate topics.

This modification is intended to help ease the pressure on learning and teaching by providing the option for candidates to be taught a narrower range of topics while still enabling them to be sufficiently prepared for the question paper.

#### **Project–dissertation**

No changes.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email [qualification.development@sqa.org.uk](mailto:qualification.development@sqa.org.uk).