

National Course modification summary: History



National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course assessment in session 2020–21

The Deputy First Minister has announced that National 5 exams will not take place in session 2020–21. SQA is working with stakeholders to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher and lecturer estimates.

At present, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are still planned for 2021 and this will remain under review. We continue to work with stakeholders to put contingency plans in place to respond to any changes in public health advice, or local or national lockdowns, that may result in further changes to the 2021 exam diet — including changes to the timetable.

For up-to-date information on arrangements for National Courses in session 2020–21, including timetable information and guidance on estimates, please visit our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021.

Modifications to assessment

Following our public consultation on proposed modifications to National 5 to Advanced Higher course assessment, which closed on 24 August 2020, we are making changes to course assessment for session 2020–21. The changes detailed on the following pages are intended to support the delivery of learning and teaching, while maintaining the validity, credibility and standard of the courses.

We have published a high-level report on the outcomes of the consultation, which is available from www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021. This includes details of the modifications to National 5 course assessment, which were planned prior to the 2021 National 5 exams being cancelled.

As a result of the modifications, we are exploring the implications for National 3 and National 4 courses in session 2020–21 and will provide further guidance in due course.

National 5 course assessment 2020–21

There will be no external assessment for National 5 courses in session 2020–21.

Candidates will not be required to sit exams and SQA will not assess coursework. Instead, we are working with stakeholders to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher and lecturer estimates.

Centres need to gather evidence of candidates' attainment and use this to determine estimate grades and bands. We have published separate guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates and there is an SQA Academy course available to support teachers and lecturers.

We are also developing subject-specific guidance for teachers and lecturers on gathering evidence and producing estimates. This will include how the previously-intended National 5

modifications could be used to support with gathering evidence and producing estimates in session 2020–21. This guidance will be published from the end of October.

Details of the modifications we had previously intended to make to National 5 course assessment in session 2020–21 are included in our high-level report on the outcomes of the consultation.

To view the high-level report, and to access the guidance on gathering evidence and producing estimates, visit www.sqa.org.uk/nq2021.

Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper 1 — British, European and world history	44	1 hour and 30 minutes
Component 2: question paper 2 — Scottish history	36	1 hour and 30 minutes

Question paper 1 — British, European and world history

In Section 1 — British and Section 2 — European and world, any **four** from six key issues will be assessed in 2021. Candidates will choose one essay from a choice of **four** in each section.

For 2021 it is advised that candidates are prepared for a minimum of three issues in both the British and European and world sections studied.

Teachers and lecturers can deliver the course as normal. Increasing the choice of questions provides teachers and lecturers with flexibility to decide timing and depth of delivery of the key issues.

Question paper 2 — Scottish history

No changes are being made to Question paper 2: Scottish history.

The advice in the [2019 Higher History Course Report](#) (page 6) regarding the mark distribution for the two-source question in the Scottish history question paper will now apply to session 2021–22 (and not 2020–21 as published). This advice is good practice however, and in 2021 up to 6 marks will be awarded where candidates provide an interpretation of the views in each source and/or establish the overall viewpoint of each source.

Assignment

The coursework component (assignment) will be removed for session 2020–21.

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. This approach was taken following a review of consultation feedback.

Advanced Higher course assessment 2020–21

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper	90	3 hours
Component 2: project–dissertation	50	see ‘Course assessment’ section in the Advanced Higher History Course Specification

Question paper

The following areas in bold **will not** be assessed in the Advanced Higher History question paper for session 2020–21:

- ◆ Field of study 1 — Northern Britain from the Iron Age to 1034
Key issues
 - **Kingdoms of the Britons and the Angles**
 - **Kingdom of Alba, to 1034**

- ◆ Field of study 2 — Scotland: independence and kingship, 1249–1334
Key issues
 - **Edward I’s occupation of Scotland, 1296–97**
 - **Scottish resistance and English invasions, 1298–1305**

- ◆ Field of study 3 — Scotland: from the Treaty of Union to the Enlightenment, 1707–1815
Key issues
 - **Industrialisation and urbanisation**
 - **The Kirk**

- ◆ Field of study 4 — USA: ‘a house divided’, 1850–65
Key issues
 - **The problem of territorial expansion**
 - **The election of 1864**

- ◆ Field of study 5 — Japan: the modernisation of a nation, 1840–1920
Key issues
 - **Economy and government in the mid-19th century**
 - **War with China, 1873–97**

- ◆ Field of study 6 — Germany: from democracy to dictatorship, 1918–39
Key issues
 - **Political and economic crises, 1919–23**
 - **The National Socialist consolidation of power, 1933–34**

- ◆ Field of study 7 — South Africa: race and power, 1902–84
Key issues
 - **Opposition, 1910–48**
 - **South Africa and the international community, 1960–84**

- ◆ Field of study 8 — Russia: from Tsarism to Stalinism, 1914–45
Key issues
 - **The international context, 1917–24**
 - **Industrialisation and collectivisation**

- ◆ Field of study 9 — the Spanish Civil War: causes, conflict and consequences, 1923–45
Key issues
 - **The nature of the new Republic**
 - **The rise of Franco**

- ◆ Field of study 10 — Britain: at war and peace, 1938–51
Key issues
 - **Political leadership and parties on the eve of war**
 - **War aims, diplomacy and alliances 1939–45**

Centres can refer to pages 5–30 of the Advanced Higher History Course Specification for information on the key issues that will be examined.

In Part A: Historical issues, the questions are drawn from the content listed in the table in the ‘Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course assessment’ section of the Advanced Higher History Course Specification. In Part B: Historical sources, the questions are drawn from the content given in italics in this table.

Centres are also reminded that two questions can be asked from one key issue. The questions can be based on 7 key issues or 8 key issues. Further advice and guidance is provided in the ‘Preparing for course assessment’ section of the course support notes in the Advanced Higher History Course Specification.

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 2021 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 2021 question paper could free up time for focused learning, teaching and assessment. This approach has been taken following a review of consultation feedback.

Project–dissertation

No changes are being made to the project–dissertation at Advanced Higher level.

We are publishing additional guidance for National 5 and Higher History for session 2020–21. This will be published on the relevant [History subject pages](#) in due course.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email NQ2020@sqa.org.uk.