

# National Course modification summary: Politics



## 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](http://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 in this document 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](http://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.

### Higher course assessment 2020–21

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

#### Question paper 1

For session 2020–21:

- ◆ Section 3 will contain the 12-mark extended-response questions. In this section, there will now be a choice of three questions, one from each content area.
- ◆ Sections 1 and 2 will contain the 20-mark extended-response questions and both will continue to have two questions sampled from the three content areas.

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 in Section 3 while still enabling them to be sufficiently prepared for the question paper.

### **Question paper 2**

No changes.

### **Assignment**

The coursework component (assignment) will be removed for session 2020–21. Removing the assignment means less class time will be required for planning, organising, and developing the assignment. This will allow for increased learning and teaching time for the course.

If you have any questions about these changes, please email [NQ2020@sqa.org.uk](mailto:NQ2020@sqa.org.uk).