



# Changes to Higher and Advanced Higher SQA assessments

Session 20-21

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## English Faculty

### **Higher English course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation	30	1 hour 30 minutes
Critical Reading	40	1 hour 30 minutes
Portfolio	15	In class over time

#### **Portfolio – writing**

For session 2020–21, the portfolio – writing will contain one piece of writing (either broadly creative or broadly discursive). The expectation is that this modification will free up more time for learning and teaching.

The portfolio piece will be marked out of 15, but the 30% weighting for this component will remain. The word count remains the same, at no more than 1,300 words.

The portfolio will be submitted to SQA for external marking. All current conditions of assessment remain unchanged.

#### **Performance–spoken language**

Assessment of the performance–spoken language will not be mandatory in session 2020–21.

It is acknowledged that, depending on the approach taken by a centre, the assessment of this component can be time consuming. This modification has been put in place to support delivery of learning and teaching in session 2020–21.

Given the central place of spoken language skills in Higher English, and their importance and relevance to candidates, it is hoped that opportunities to develop these skills will continue, even though the formal assessment will be removed for session 2020–21.

### **Advanced Higher English course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Literary Study	20	1 hour 30 minutes
Textual Analysis	20	1 hour 30 minutes
Portfolio - Writing	15	In class over time

The portfolio piece will be marked out of 15, but the 30% weighting for this component will remain. The advice on the length of the piece of writing remains the same, with no specified word count, but it should be appropriate to purpose and genre.

The portfolio will be submitted to SQA for external marking. All current conditions of assessment remain unchanged.

**Higher ESOL course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Listening	25	45 minutes
Reading	35	1 hour 10 minutes
Writing	30	1 hour 40 minutes
Speaking	30	8-10 minutes in class formally assessed and recorded

There is no change to the structure or requirements of the Higher ESOL course assessment in session 2020-21. Given the nature and complexities of the course assessment, it is not possible to modify them without compromising the validity, credibility and standard of the courses, as well as their UK NARIC approval status and the benchmarked criteria of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) that they correspond to. Protecting this will ensure continuing recognition and progression opportunities for candidates. This position is supported by feedback from stakeholders who took part in our technical consultation on proposed modifications to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

## **Maths Faculty**

### **Higher Maths course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper 1 (non-calculator):	55	1 hour 15 minutes
Question paper 2	65	1 hour 30 minutes

To reduce the volume of learning and teaching required, the duration of both question papers will be reduced and limited optionality will be introduced. The duration of question paper 1 will be reduced by 15 minutes and it will contain 15 marks fewer. The duration of question paper 2 will be reduced by 15 minutes and it will contain 15 marks fewer.

Candidates will be assessed on an option shared by class teachers.

Question paper 1 (non-calculator): 11 marks out of 55 will be available for each optional section.

Question paper 2: 13 marks out of 65 will be available for each optional section.

Questions will be selected to ensure that whichever option a candidate chooses, the balance of the question paper overall will remain at 65% level C and 35% level A.

### **Advanced Higher Maths course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper 1 (non-calculator):	35	1 hour
Question paper 2	60	2 hours

To reduce the volume of learning and teaching required, the duration of question paper 2 will be reduced and limited optionality will be introduced. The duration of question paper 2 will be reduced by 30 minutes and it will contain 20 marks fewer. There will be no changes to the duration or mark allocation of question paper 1.

Candidates will be assessed on options shared by their class teacher.

#### *Question paper 1 (non-calculator)*

- There is no change to this component. Given the duration and mark allocation of the non-calculator paper, there is no scope for optionality.

#### *Question paper 2*

- 15 marks out of 60 will be available for each optional section.

Questions will be selected to ensure that whichever option a candidate chooses, the balance of the question paper overall will remain at 65% level C and 35% level A.

**Higher Art & Design course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper	30	1 hour 15 minutes
Portfolio (expressive or design)	100	over an extended period of time

**Question paper**

We will introduce further optionality into the question paper for session 2020-21. Candidates will choose to respond to either the Expressive Art Studies or Design Studies section. This will reduce the marks available for the question paper from 60 to 30, and the time allocation to one hour and fifteen minutes (this includes reading time as at present).

This mark will be scaled in order that the question paper remains as 23% of the course.

This change will free up learning and teaching time as it will allow centres to take a more focussed approach to exam preparation.

**Expressive and Design portfolios**

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the Art and Design subject page in due course. This guidance includes information on:

- the amount of work that candidates can submit for each stage of the portfolios
- less time-consuming approaches such as choosing a less complex theme/design brief

We will also provide an audio/visual presentation that exemplifies expressive and design portfolios, to illustrate how you can apply this guidance in practice.

This guidance should further clarify the assessment requirements and reassure centres that taking a more concise approach to the portfolios still gives candidates the opportunity to access all available marks, while offering more time for learning and teaching.

**Advanced Higher Art and Design (Expressive) course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Portfolio	100	over an extended period of time
Contextual Analysis	N/A	No Changes made to this component  Submitted with Practical work

### Practical artwork

We will reduce the volume of practical work for the Expressive portfolio **from** a minimum of eight single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 16 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent) **to** a minimum of six single-sided A1 sheets to a maximum of 12 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent). Sketchbooks and formats smaller than A1 sheets are acceptable for this work.

This reduction in the volume of practical work will support candidates who are completing the course with limited resources and restricted time in their centre.

### Higher Drama course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper	50 (scaled to 40)	2 hours 30 minutes
Performance	60	Over time and varies by role

There is no change to the structure or requirements of the Higher Drama course assessments in session 2020-21. Given the nature of the course assessments, it is not possible to modify them without compromising the validity, credibility and standard of the courses. This is supported by feedback from stakeholders who took part in our consultation on proposed modifications to the course assessments.

### Advanced Higher Drama course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Project - Dissertation	30	Over time
Assignment	20	1 hour 30 minutes
Performance	50	Over time and varies by role

There is no change to the structure or requirements of the Advanced Higher Drama course assessments in session 2020-21. Given the nature of the course assessments, it is not possible to modify them without compromising the validity, credibility and standard of the courses. This is supported by feedback from stakeholders who took part in our consultation on proposed modifications to the course assessments.

### **Higher and Advanced Higher Music course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper (Listening)	40	1 hour
Performance Instrument 1	30	The minimum performance time across both instruments, or one instrument and voice, has been reduced.
Performance Instrument 2	30	

At Higher and Advanced Music (performance option), for session 2020–21, there is no scaling of components. The question paper is worth 40% and performance is worth 60% of the course.

#### **Question paper**

At Higher and Advanced Higher there are no changes to the question papers. The question papers enable candidates to:

- demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding of music, level-specific music concepts, and music literacy

#### **Performance**

At Higher and Advanced Higher, the volume of assessment for the performance components is reduced to allow centres to focus their available learning and teaching time with candidates on shorter programmes of music. Candidates will be able to demonstrate their performing skills on two instruments, or one instrument and voice, during this shorter programme.



## Health and Wellbeing Faculty

### Higher PE course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	50	2 hours and 30 minutes
Performance	30 – scaled to 50	Dependent on appropriate length of time required to assess the chosen activity

#### Question Paper

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the Physical Education subject page in due course. This guidance is for the following areas of mandatory content:

- key planning information — interpretation of qualitative and quantitative information to allow identification of strengths and prioritise areas for development
- recording, monitoring, and evaluating performance development

#### Performance

The course assessment task has been modified to assess candidates' ability to effectively perform in one physical activity instead of two.

By reducing the assessment burden, teachers and lecturers will have more time for teaching and learning, and to prepare candidates for a single performance. We encourage centres to continue to offer a range of activities enabling candidates to develop a broad and comprehensive range of complex movement and performance skills. This allows candidates to apply the knowledge and understanding of the factors that impact on performance in physical activities when answering the question paper.

We are publishing additional guidance to support teachers and lecturers with delivering the course in session 2020–21 on the Physical Education subject page in due course. This guidance is for the assessment item 'Extent to which rules and regulations are followed and etiquette is displayed (including working with others)'.

## Modern Languages Faculty

### Higher French/Spanish course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Reading	30	2 hours
Directed Writing	20 (scaled to 30 this session)	30 minutes
Listening	20	30 minutes (approx.)
Performance - Talking	30	10 minutes in class formally assessed and recorded

#### Assignment–writing

This coursework component will be removed from the course assessment for session 2020–21. This will reduce the overall number of raw course assessment marks by 20.

Removing the assignment–writing will mean increased learning and teaching time for other areas of the course. There will be more opportunities for candidates to develop the skills of reading and listening in general class activities or when practising the techniques and time-management skills of assessment.

### Advanced Higher French/Spanish course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Reading and Translation (Question paper 1)	50	1 hour 30 minutes
Listening and Discursive Writing (question paper 2)	70	1 hour 20 minutes
Performance - Talking	50	15-20 minutes in class formally assessed and recorded
Portfolio	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### Performance – talking

The length of the performance has been altered to 15–20 minutes for session 2020–21. This is to take account of the effect of removing the portfolio (component 3) from the discussion in the performance–talking.

#### Portfolio

This coursework component will be removed from the course assessment for session 2020–21. This will reduce the number of course assessment marks by 30, with a revised total of 170 marks for course assessment in session 2020–21. Candidates work independently to produce the portfolio and spend considerable time outside the classroom researching and analysing a number of sources in

order to complete the final essay. Removing the portfolio will mean increased learning and teaching time for other areas of the course.

There will be more opportunities for candidates to develop the skills of reading, listening and discursive writing, and when practising the techniques and time-management skills of assessment.

Teachers and lecturers will have increased time to focus on the skill of talking and will have greater preparation time for the performance–talking. Candidates will not need to discuss the portfolio in the performance – talking. There will be increased class time as teachers and lecturers will not need to:

- explain the process and conditions of assessment of the portfolio
- organise meetings to discuss progress with candidates
- organise and package the portfolio materials for submission to SQA

## **Science Faculty**

### **Higher Biology course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Multiple Choice (Question Paper 1)	25	40 minutes
Question Paper 2	95	2 hour 20 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### **Question papers**

There are no changes proposed to the question papers. The structure and length of the question papers will remain unchanged as there was not enough strong support for the proposed modification.

Maintaining the current format and balance of the question papers will maintain consistency with the style and format of past papers and the specimen question paper. Candidates can continue to use these resources to prepare for the 2021 examination.

#### **Assignment**

The development of practical skills in biology is essential, and candidates should undertake and experience practical work in science courses at all levels. However, in these unique circumstances, the assignment is being removed from the course for session 2020–21. There was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification.

The rationale for this modification was the difficulty of carrying out practical work safely due to social distancing requirements, local authority health and safety protocols, and compliance with the guidelines issued by the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC). Many respondents commented that removing the assignment would allow them to make up for lost time and deliver the course content. Many respondents noted that access to IT facilities is an issue and that this would impede candidates' ability to undertake the research element of the assignment.

### **Advanced Higher Biology course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	100 (scaled to 120)	3 Hours
Project	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### **Question papers**

There are no changes proposed to the question paper. The structure and length of the question paper will remain unchanged.

### Project

The development of practical skills in biology is essential, and candidates should undertake and experience practical work in science courses at all levels. However, in these unique circumstances, the project is being removed from the course for session 2020–21. There was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification. The great majority of respondents indicated that their preferred modification would be the removal of the project for one year. There was widespread recognition of the status and worth of the project at Advanced Higher.

The overwhelming rationale for this modification was the difficulty of carrying out practical work safely due to social distancing requirements, local authority health and safety protocols, and compliance with the guidelines issued by the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC).

### Higher Chemistry course assessment 2020–21

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Multiple Choice (Question Paper 1)	25	40 minutes
Question Paper 2	95	2 hour 20 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

### Question papers

There are no changes to the question papers for session 2020-21. The length of the question papers will remain unchanged as there was not enough strong support for the proposed modification.

### Assignment

The development of practical skills in Chemistry is essential and candidates should undertake and experience practical work at all levels. However, in these unique circumstances and with the current restrictions in centres, the assignment is **being removed** for session 2020-21. There was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification. It would be very difficult to carry out practical work in session 2020-21 due to current restrictions with carrying out practical work under social distancing requirements, Local Authority Health and Safety protocols, and the guidelines issued by the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC). Many respondents commented that the removal of the coursework would free up valuable time that has been lost to deliver the course content. It was also noted by many respondents that access to IT facilities is an issue, and this would also impede on candidates' ability to undertake the research element of the coursework.

### **Advanced Higher Chemistry course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	110	3 Hours
Project	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### **Question paper**

There are no changes proposed to the question paper.

#### **Assignment**

The development of practical skills in Chemistry is essential and candidates should undertake and experience practical work at all levels. However, in these unique circumstances and with the current restrictions in centres, the project is **being removed** from session 2020-21. There was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification.

It would be very difficult to carry out practical work in session 2020-21 due to current restrictions with carrying out practical work under social distancing requirements, Local Authority Health and Safety protocols, and the guidelines issued by the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC). Many respondents commented that the removal of the coursework would free up valuable time that has been lost to deliver the course content. It was also noted by many respondents that access to IT facilities is an issue, and this would also impede on candidates' ability to undertake the research element of the coursework.

### **Higher Physics course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Multiple Choice (Question Paper 1)	25	45 minutes
Question Paper 2	130 (scaled to 95)	2 hour 15 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### **Question papers**

There are no changes to the question papers.

#### **Assignment**

The coursework element (the assignment) has been removed from the course for session 2020-21, as there was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification.

**Advanced Higher Physics course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	155	3 Hours
Project	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

**Question paper**

There are no changes to the question paper, although scaling of marks is not required since there is only one component.

**Project**

The coursework element (the project) has been removed from the course for session 2020-21, as there was overwhelmingly strong support for this modification.

## Social Subjects Faculty

### **Advanced Higher Geography course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	50	2 hours 30 minutes
Portfolio – Geographical Study	60	Carried out over time
Portfolio – Geographical Issue	40	Carried out over time

#### Question paper

The following geographical techniques will not be assessed in the 2021 question paper:

- micro-climate analysis
- questionnaire design and implementation

#### Project–folio: geographical study

We are publishing guidance to support centres in relation to carrying out the geographical study in session 2020–21. This will be published on the Advanced Higher Geography subject page in due course.

### **Higher History course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper 1 — British, European and world history	44	1 hour 30 minutes
Question paper 2 — Scottish history	36	1 hour 30 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### 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.

#### Question paper 2 — Scottish history 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.

### **Advanced Higher History course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question paper	90	3 hours
Project–dissertation	50	Over time

### **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.

### Project–dissertation

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

### **Higher Modern Studies course assessment 2020 - 21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	52	1 hour and 45 minutes
Question Paper 2	28	1 hour and 15 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

### Question Paper

*Question paper 1 For session 2020–21:*

- Section 1: increase in the number of extended-response questions from three to four<sup>2</sup>
- Section 2: increase in the number of extended-response questions<sup>2</sup> from two to three
- Section 3: increase in the number of extended-response questions from two to three

*Question paper 2*

- No changes.

### **Advanced Higher Modern Studies course assessment 2020-21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	90	3 Hours
Project–dissertation	50	Over time
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

### Question paper

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

### Project dissertation

No changes

### **Higher RMPS course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1 - World Religion and Morality and Belief	60	2 hours 15 minutes
Question Paper 2 - Religious and Philosophical Questions	20	45 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed for session 20-21

#### **Question Paper**

##### Question paper 1 — World Religion and Morality and Belief

Centres should continue to deliver the course as normal, however the areas listed below from the Morality and Belief section will not feature in the question paper for 2021 and so centres will be free to decide timing and depth of delivery, and any internal assessment of these sub-topics.

##### Section 2: Morality and Belief Part A: Morality and Justice

- Purposes of punishment: — reformation — retribution — protection — deterrence

##### Part B: Morality and Relationships

- Marriage: — arranged marriage — forced marriage — same-sex marriage — divorce

##### Part C: Morality, Environment and Global Issues

- Environmental issues: — climate change — depletion of resources — biodiversity

##### Part D: Morality, Medicine and the Human Body

- Use of embryos: — reproductive — therapeutic — research

##### Part E: Morality and Conflict

- Modern armaments: — weapons of mass destruction — conventional weapons — smart weapons

##### Question paper 2 — Religious and Philosophical Questions

No change.

## Technologies Faculty

### **Higher Admin and IT course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	50	1 hour and 30 minutes
Assignment	60	1 hour 45 minutes (in one block excluding printing time)

#### **Assignment**

We are removing the practical assessment of databases from the 2021 assignment. Theory questions on features and functions of databases may still be assessed in the question paper.

The 2021 assignment is being reduced by 10 marks to 60 marks, and the assignment duration reduced by 15 minutes to 1 hour and 45 minutes in one block (excluding printing time). The mark allocation is:

- 24 marks for spreadsheet
- 24 marks for word-processing
- 12 marks for communication

Databases will not be assessed within mail merge.

We will release the assignment later than usual for session 2020–21, but there will be no change to the assessment window during which centres can complete it. We will share the release and uplift dates with you as soon as we are able to.

### **Higher Business Management course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper 1	90	2 hours and 45 minutes
Assignment	N/A	Removed from session 20-21

The following topic areas of content will not be directly assessed in the 2021 Higher Business Management question paper:

- ◆ Ethical and environment
- ◆ Workforce planning
- ◆ Employee relations.

Centres should continue to deliver the course as normal, however teachers and lecturers can decide timing and depth of delivery, and if they want to internally assess the areas not directly assessed in 2021.

### **Higher Computing Science course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	80	2 hours
Assignment	40	6 hours

The question paper and assignment components will be modified to give an option of either 'database design and development' or 'web design and development'. This will give teachers and lecturers flexibility in how they deliver the course, and will reduce the volume of assessed content. It will remove any pressure to teach all three practical areas before the assignment and also build contingency to make up for lost time.

This approach reduces assessment by approximately 25%, while ensuring at least one of the database or web areas of study is assessed in each component.

#### **Question paper**

The marks for the question paper will change from 110 to 80 marks.

There is no change to the style of questions, however we will structure the question paper by area of study.

Section 1 is mandatory and is worth 55 marks covering 'software design and development', and 'computer systems'. Questions will be a combination of short-response questions and larger context-based questions with multiple parts.

Section 2 is worth 25 marks and has the option to answer either 'Part A — database design and development' or 'Part B — web design and development'. Questions will be a combination of short-response questions and larger context-based questions with multiple parts.

The duration of the question papers will change from 2 hours and 30 minutes to 2 hours.

#### **Assignment**

The total number of marks for the assignment will change from 50 to 40 marks.

The 'software design and development' task is mandatory and remains with 25 marks allocated (15 marks for implementation).

There is an option to complete either the 'database design and development' task or the 'web design and development' task. This has 15 marks allocated, an increase of 2-3 marks from the current arrangements.

The time to complete the assignment will change from 8 hours to 6 hours.

### **Higher Design & Manufacture course assessment 2020–21**

Component	Number of Marks	Duration
Question Paper	80	2 hours 15 minutes
Assignment	77	Over an extended period of time

#### **Question paper**

No changes are being made to the question paper.

#### **Assignment**

Currently 5 marks are available for 'Carry out research into a given brief'.

For session 2020-21, SQA will produce this research, and include this in the published coursework assessment task, meaning that the candidates will all begin by using the research provided to complete their specification.

This will reduce the volume of work that candidates are required to produce for their Assignment. Candidates spend a lot of time on research therefore providing it for them it will free up learning and teaching time.

Currently 8 marks are available for 'Demonstrating practical modelling skills'.

Due to the difficulty that schools are having in providing candidates with access to workshops, we will remove this requirement from the Assignment for session 2020-21.

In total, these changes will reduce the marks available for this component in session 2020-21 from 90 to 77.