Our ref: Access/006/01

May 2006

For the attention of centre staff responsible for:
Access 1 and 2 provision

Action by Recipient
Response required
√ Note and pass on
None – update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Update – Access 1 and 2

This letter is to update centres on recent development in provision at Access levels. Three Independent level Access 1 units have now been developed. The units are listed below and are available from the SQA website at http://www.sqa.org.uk.

To find the Access 1 and 2 Section of the SQA website go to the home page (www.sqa.org.uk). In the top right hand corner, click on 'Choose a Section' and on the drop down menu Access 1 and 2 is the third item on the list.

Access 1 Independent Level Units

DV2M 07	**Biology: Practical Experiment**
DV2N 07	**Chemistry: Practical Experiment**
DV2P 07	**Physics: Practical Experiment**

The above units have now been validated and are available for centres to offer. Please note that centres automatically approved to offer SQA qualifications will be approved to offer these units as a matter of course. Other centres, such as some special schools that do not have automatic approval, but wish to gain approval for these qualifications must submit Form SA1 (2) to the Approval Section in SQA in the normal way.

Skillstart Group Award (Access 2)

The revised Skillstart Group Award at Access 2 **(G852 08)** has been validated and the Group Award Specification is now available in the Access 1 and 2 Section of SQA's website under the Group Awards section. Centres should note that the old Skillstart Award Framework (G5BK 08) will still be available to allow candidates currently entered to complete and results for the Skillstart Group Award at Access 2 should be submitted before 31 July 2008. All new entries for the Skillstart Group Award should be made against the new Group Award code **G852 08.**

Skillstart Units

In the Mandatory Section of the Skillstart Group Award, the revised Numeracy Unit which carries the Numeracy Core Skill has been included along with the new Unit below which carries the Problem Solving and Working with Others Core Skills. These are now available on SQA's website.

DV2R 08	Skillstart: Numeracy in a Work-Related Environment
DV2T 08	Skillstart: Developing Skills for the Workplace

In the Optional Section of the Skillstart Group Award, the following new Units have been included and are also available on SQA's website:

DV30 08	Electronics: An Introduction
DV2V 08	Car Valeting: An Activity Approach
DV2W 08	Housekeeping: An Activity Approach
DV2X 08	Hairdressing-Salon Assistant: An Activity Approach
DV2Y 08	Customer Care

Assessment Examplars/NABs for the new and revised Units in the Skillstart Group Award are currently being developed and will soon be available on the SQA secure website. Access to the secure website is through a password which is given to the SQA Co-ordinator in centres. Centres will be advised on the SQA website when these Assessment Exemplars become available.

Support Codes for Access 1 Supported Level Units

We have received a number of enquiries recently from centres delivering the Access 1 Supported Level Units regarding the support codes relating to these Units. It should be noted that candidates may only be entered and certificated once for SQA Units. In the Supported Level Units at Access 1 the nine support codes are not recorded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate. These are used internally to record candidates' progress in centres and should either be kept in the centre or passed to any other centre(s) that candidates may attend.

Evaluation of Healthy Basic Cooking Units at Access 1 Supported Level

In December 2005 Centres delivering the six Healthy Basic Cooking Units at Access 1 Supported Level were invited to take part in the evaluation of these. SQA will use the comments on the Units to inform any future development at Access 1 Supported Level and we would like to take this opportunity to thank staff who took part in the survey.

SQA Address

Please note that SQA has now moved to:
The Optima Building,
58 Robertson Street,
Glasgow. G2 8DQ

0845 213 5569/5577 for Access 1 and 2 enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Riddell
Project Manager
National Qualifications Product Development