

To: SQA Coordinators
Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
Directors of Education
HMIE

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
None — update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Update: Art and Design and Higher Photography

Please forward this letter to the members of staff responsible for the above subjects.

This Update contains information about:

- 1 Key Submission/Distribution Dates 2012
- 2 Appointees
- 3 External and Internal Assessment Reports
- 4 Higher Art and Design Understanding Standards Event
- 5 Higher Photography Understanding Standards Event
- 6 Advanced Higher Art and Design
- 7 Understanding Standards Website
- 8 National Certificate Awards

1 Key Submission/Distribution Dates 2012

The uplift date for external assessments for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Art and Design is Wednesday 2 May 2012.

The key submission dates for 2012 will be issued to all centres in December 2011 along with *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment* and the Design Brief/Evaluation forms. These documents will also be available to download from the SQA website. Please note the Design Brief/Evaluation forms are available to download from the SQA website; centres are

encouraged to print these out in the colour appropriate to the level, ie pink for Higher etc.

SQA will continue to issue the Standard Grade Titles for the examination in letter format in the December distribution. Centres are reminded that the Standard Grade Question Paper is no longer issued in paper format to centres. Instead, the question paper will be published on the Art and Design page on the SQA website in December 2011 and must be downloaded from there.

The *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment* for Higher Photography will be issued to all centres and uploaded to the SQA website in March 2012.

2 Appointees

Examination Teams

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2010/11. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing working with them during session 2011/12.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, component of the education system in Scotland. Many teachers/lecturers carry out this role in order to further their own understanding of the examination process, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Marker and have either two (Standard Grade, Intermediate1 or Intermediate 2) or three (Higher or Advanced Higher) year's current experience of delivering Art and Design or Photography, please complete an Appointee Application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return it to am@sqa.org.uk.

Verifiers

We are grateful to the Appointees who carry out this role and would encourage others to become involved, especially in Higher Photography as we have some vacancies in the NQ Photography Verification team. We also have vacancies in the Creative Industries Skills for Work Verification team.

If you are interested in becoming a Verifier and have relevant teaching experience, please complete an Appointee Application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return to am@sqa.org.uk.

3 External and Internal Assessment Reports

These reports will be available from the relevant subject pages of the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk) by the end of October 2011. I recommend that you take time to read these reports as they contain useful feedback on candidate performance in Diet 2011. This includes information about areas in which candidates performed well, together with advice to centres regarding areas which they found more demanding.

4 Higher Art and Design Understanding Standards Event

We have had a very high response for the Higher Art and Design Understanding Standards event in November 2011 and regrettably it is now full. Presentation material from the event will be published on SQA's secure website in due course following the event.

5 Higher Photography Understanding Standards Event

We are planning a Higher Photography Understanding Standards Event which will take place on Saturday 25 February 2012 in Stirling. Invitations to this event will be sent to centres (via SQA Co-ordinator) at the beginning of November.

6 Advanced Higher Art and Design

It was identified at central marking that some centres had not included Statements of Intent and/or Optional Units with their Advanced Higher folio submissions.

It is **essential** that centres ensure that all assessable material is included. We do not wish to disadvantage any candidate so we contact the centres concerned to give them the opportunity to send in the relevant material; but this is time consuming and can require us to arrange an additional marking session.

Information on exactly what should be submitted is outlined for each level of Art and Design in the *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment* document.

In addition, some centres had entered their candidates for the Design Course rather than Expressive, and vice versa; and in some cases candidates had been entered for the correct Course award, but they were entered for the wrong Units.

We make every effort to identify such errors and to inform the centres concerned in order that they can rectify them as, unless corrected, these errors will result in candidates being wrongly certificated.

A reminder of the codes for the Advanced Higher Art and Design: Expressive and Advanced Higher Art and Design: Design can be found in Appendix 1.

7 Understanding Standards Website

The Art and Design pages on the Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk) contain valuable examples of candidates' work at Standard Grade, Intermediate and Higher levels. These examples are intended to provide you with an opportunity to gain an insight into the marking process by showing you candidates work, giving you the opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding and, ultimately, to give you a better understanding of national standards and how to apply these to your own marking. Teachers are strongly advised to access this valuable material.

New material has been produced for Higher Art and Design. The website is currently under review; new Intermediate 2 material will be available upon completion of this revision.

8 National Certificate Awards

National Certificates are designed to prepare people for employment, career development or progression to more advanced study at HNC/HND level. They also aim to develop a range of transferable knowledge including Core Skills. These certificates are aimed at 16-18 year olds or adults in full-time education and are at SCQF Levels 2-6. Each one has specific aims relating to a subject or occupational area.

We are delighted to announce that new National Certificate awards have been developed and were validated in August and September 2011. Further information is outlined in the following paragraphs:

National Certificate in Screen Printing at SCQF level 5

This new award will act as a route to a suite of qualifications in screen printing. It has been designed to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to develop design and technical skills in a variety of creative and commercial processes for the screen printing, digital, design, and printing industries.

The Course Arrangements document for this new award is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page of the SQA website.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificate in Creative Printmaking with Photography at SCQF level 6

This new award is designed to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to develop both creative and technical skills in a variety of traditional and commercial printing processes for the printing, photography, and design industries. It is also designed to develop a key level of awareness and appreciation of the technical skills and creative techniques used in the various production areas, together with experience of co-operative working, presentation and exhibition techniques.

The Course Arrangements document for this new award will shortly be available on the NQGA Creative Industries page of the SQA website.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificates in Computer Arts and Animation at SCQF levels 5 and 6.

These new awards are designed as feeder courses at SCQF levels 5 and 6 for Higher National programmes including:

- ◆ HN 3D Computer Animation
- ◆ HN Computer Arts and Design
- ◆ HN Filmcraft and Animation

The Course Arrangements document for these new awards will be available on the NQGA pages of SQA's website in due course.

Please note: due to the specialist nature of National Certificates, centres are not automatically approved to offer these awards and therefore, must apply for approval using a Qualification Approval Form. For information on the approval process, and to access the relevant form, please visit: www.sqa.org.uk/approval.

Future National Certificates developments

A new National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 6 is currently in development. Further details will be communicated to centres when available.

Curriculum for Excellence Quality Assuring the new National Qualifications

In session 2013/14, new National Qualifications at SCQF levels 1-5 (Access 1 – National 5) will be available to centres. New Qualifications at SCQF levels 6 and 7 (Higher and Advanced Higher) will follow in sessions 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.

Learner achievement will continue to be credited using assessments which are marked internally by centres and quality assured externally by SQA, and assessments which are directly marked by SQA.

SQA has reviewed its current quality assurance processes to make sure they are consistent and compatible with evolving quality assurance and moderation practice in the broad general education stage (3-15).

By undertaking this activity, SQA has ensured the quality assurance process that is implemented for the new National Qualifications will fully support the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

Once approved, further details about SQA's quality assurance processes will be published on the CfE pages of the SQA website.

Centres are encouraged to make use of the 'Have your say' facility on the Curriculum for Excellence website. Centres can also subscribe to MyAlerts for Curriculum for Excellence news and updates.

Further information on Curriculum for Excellence and details of how to access 'Have your say' and 'MyAlerts' are located on www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence.

I hope you find the contents of this update letter helpful. Should you require any further information regarding the content of this letter or any other matter relating to Art and Design Courses, please contact Lynn Wallwork or myself.

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Yours sincerely



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Science and Technology

Advanced Higher Art and Design Codes

Expressive

Option 1

Advanced Higher – Expressive Enquiry with Design Activity

- C224 13 Course code
- DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- DV38 13 Art and Design: Design Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher – Expressive Enquiry with Visual Arts Study

- C224 13 Course code
- DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- DV3G 13 Art and Design Studies: Visual Arts Study

Design

Option 1

Advanced Higher – Design Enquiry with Expressive Activity

- C225 13 Course code
- DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- DV37 13 Art and Design: Expressive Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher – Design Enquiry with Design Study

- C225 13 Course code
- DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- DV3J 13 Art and Design Studies: Design Study