

5 February 2013

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
(Secondary Schools and Colleges of Further Education)  
Directors of Education  
SCIS  
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications Update — Classical Studies**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the members of staff responsible for Classical Studies and/or History. As Classical Studies does not involve translation and the question papers are entirely in English information, the subject may be of interest to History teachers.

### **SQA Website**

The subject page is the main source of information on National Qualifications in Classical Studies. It contains the current and past reports of Principal Assessors and the Senior Verifier, Course Specifications/Arrangements documents and specimen paper, previous National Qualifications updates and marking instructions for the 2012 and recent diets. The address of the website is [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

### **Update on the 2012 diet**

Principal Assessors and their examining teams are thanked for their efforts in delivering a successful diet. The External Assessment Reports for each level are on the Classical Studies subject pages of SQA's website. These include summary statistics on entry figures, pass rates etc.

### *Advanced Higher*

There was an increase in the number of entries from 66 in 2011 to 82 in 2012.

Responses were generally very satisfactory with over 93.9% of candidates achieving grade A-C.

Flyleafs and notes for the submission of candidates' Dissertations are available only on the secure part of the SQA website via SQA Co-ordinators.

The uplift date for candidate submissions of the Advanced Higher Dissertation is 23 April 2013.

### *Higher*

There was a decrease in the number of entries from 431 in 2011 to 387 in 2012 while the A-C pass rate fell to 71.1%.

Examples of marked answers from a previous year's diet are available on the Understanding Standards section of the SQA website – [www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk)

### *Intermediate*

At Intermediate 1, there was an increase in the number of entries from 19 in 2011 to 30 in 2012 but at Intermediate 2, there was a decrease in the number of entries from 131 in 2011 to 109 in 2012.

Results in Intermediate 2 were very pleasing with over 84.4% of the candidates achieving a grade A-C.

### *Standard Grade*

There was a decrease in the number of entries from 235 in 2011 to 216 in 2012

There was much evidence of good practice in papers at all three levels. Centres are reminded to continue to encourage candidates to read the questions carefully and answer accordingly.

### **Estimates and Appeals**

The updated *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals Guidance on Evidence Requirements* (Published: October 2012 (Revised), Publication code: BA5212) is available on SQA's website. This document provides guidance on evidence requirements for estimates, absentee consideration and appeals consideration and is for subject specialists in centres that are delivering National Courses.

Centres are reminded that prelim papers should follow the structure of the actual exam as closely as possible. Marking Instructions and sources of questions must be included with the evidence even when NABs or past SQA questions have been used.

Full guidance on the above is available via the SQA website.

All queries on appeals should be addressed to the Appeals Helpline at [appeals@sqa.org.uk](mailto:appeals@sqa.org.uk).

### **Markers**

SQA is again grateful to those who marked in the 2012 diet. It is generally recognised that marking for SQA is excellent in-service, and can be a major factor in promoting improved performance in individual centres.

### **Becoming a Marker**

If you are interested in becoming a marker in Classical Studies, information and applications forms are available on the Appointee Management section of the SQA website. To become a Marker, we normally ask that you are in your third year of teaching the Course. We welcome applications throughout the year and, where a suitable vacancy exists, we may be able to offer an appointment for this year. The experience of marking helps to increase the awareness of the

demands of Course assessment and is proven to be excellent professional and personal development.

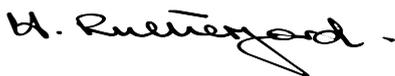
### **CfE Developments**

The developments for the new Classical Studies Courses are well underway. It is recommended that you keep up to date on the progress of the developments by visiting the dedicated webpages: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45629.html>. You are also encouraged to use the *Have Your Say* facility on SQA's website to record any comments or feedback that you may have on the development or related materials.

We are currently in the process of recruiting specialists to write and check items for the Specimen and Live Question Papers for Higher Classical Studies. If you are interested in becoming involved in the new Higher development, please get in touch with me.

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Duncan Cox ([duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk](mailto:duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk)) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Rutherford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Hilary Rutherford  
Qualifications Manager