



18 October 2011

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To: SQA Coordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications - Drama Update October 2011

This letter is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Drama and contains important information for this current session 2011/2012 and gives an update on new opportunities and developments in Drama.

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Please pass a copy of this letter to your Drama teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter with us, please contact Joanna Morris (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 (0345 213 6811 after 22 November 2011) or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

With best wishes for the session,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
Humanities, Arts and Business

1. 2011/2012 Drama External Assessment Timetable

Summary of key dates for external assessment this session:

Early December 2011	Distribution of : <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Standard Grade Drama Stimulus Paper◆ Intermediate 1 Themes◆ Intermediate 2 Extracts If you are presenting any of these levels for the first time this session, you will need to request these materials for the 2012 examination: call 0845 213 5554
February 2012	Practical Examination (Visiting Examination) period starts on 20 February 2012 for Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama
May 2012	Visiting Examination period ends on 4 May. <u>Friday 18 May (morning)</u> Question Paper Examinations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 Drama, Intermediate 2 Drama◆ Standard Grade Drama (all levels) <u>Friday 18 May (afternoon)</u> Question Paper Examinations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Drama◆ Advanced Higher Drama

Please note:

For the 2012 Higher Drama Question Paper Examination, the Contemporary Scottish Theatre (CST) Text is *Bondagers* by Sue Glover.

2. 2011/2012 Drama – SQA Support for Centres

September 2011	2011 Marking Instructions published on www.sqa.org.uk
October 2011	2011 External Assessment (PA) Report published 2011 Internal Assessment (Senior Verifier) Report published
November 2011	Advanced Higher Drama Understanding Standards event Advanced Higher Drama Practical and Question Paper exemplification published on SQA Secure website
December 2011	2012 SG Stimulus materials, Intermediate 1 Themes and Intermediate 2 Extracts distributed to centres
January 2012	2012 Visiting Examination preparation starts: <i>Instructions to Centres</i> document issued
February 2012	Visiting Assessors contact centres to arrange visits 2012 Visiting Examining period starts
March 2012	Verification of Units – SQA uplift materials from the centres selected for Verification in 2012. (Centres are informed in advance if they have been selected)
April 2012	Central Verification takes place and the selected centres receive confirmation that their assessment decisions are in line with national standards
May 2012	2012 Visiting Examining period ends
June 2012	2013 Advanced Higher Devised Drama Themes published

3. SQA Appointee Opportunities – Markers and Visiting Assessors

There are currently opportunities for teachers and lecturers to apply to be a Marker and/or a Visiting Assessor in the following Drama courses and levels:

Marker:

- Drama Standard Grade
- Drama Intermediate 1
- Drama Intermediate 2
- Drama Higher
- Drama Advanced Higher

Visiting Assessor:

- Drama Intermediate 1 and 2
- Drama Higher *
- Drama Advanced Higher *

Applicants for Marker or Visiting Assessor duties will be expected to be actively involved in the delivery and/or assessment of the subject and level for which they are applying. You should have a minimum of two years delivery experience at Intermediate 1 and 2 and three years delivery experience at Higher and Advanced Higher.

Fees and expenses are paid for undertaking these SQA roles and are specific to each appointee role/team. An application form and details of selection criteria for either role are available on the Appointee Management section of SQA's website at: www.sqa.org.uk/am

Visiting Assessors in Drama are required to obtain 5 days release to undertake duties. Applications for Visiting Assessor must also be accompanied by the reference/release form which must be signed off by your Senior Manager. A copy of our reference/release form is also available to download at: www.sqa.org.uk/am

Completed application forms and reference/release forms should be submitted to: am@sqa.org.uk Please e-mail us if you have any questions.

*New applicants please note that if your application is successful then you will be added to the relevant reserve list for that subject/level. You will be invited to join the marking/visiting assessor team as and when a vacancy occurs in that team.

4. New Developments in Drama and Creative Industries

For the past 3 years, we have kept you informed about new provision in Drama: National Certificates (NCs), National Progression Awards (NPAs) and many new Units in Drama, Technical Theatre and Musical Theatre. Please see the update letters of October 2009 and May 2010 for details of these. Full information is available on www.sqa.org.uk as follows:

- ◆ Click on Qualifications
- ◆ Click on NCs and NPAs
- ◆ Select Browse NC and NPA Subjects from the left hand menu
- ◆ Select Performing Arts from the list of NQGA subject pages

We have been very encouraged by the number of centres who are delivering this new provision. Although the larger National Certificates (NCs) tend to be delivered in Scotland's Colleges, there is a lot of scope for schools to consider offering the new Units or National Progression Awards (NPAs) in a variety of creative contexts.

We have published a number of case studies we have received from schools and these give accounts of how colleagues have tailored this new provision to enhance learning experiences in Drama and how they are offering imaginative pathways either in addition to or as an alternative to National Courses in Drama. To read about how some schools are offering these new Units go to the NQ Drama homepage <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/2546.html>

Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (level 5)

This is an existing new addition to SQA's portfolio of qualifications. The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) was launched in April and has been available for entries since August this year. Early indications show a lot of interest in this Course as centres come forward for SQA Approval. This is another Course which can be delivered in a wide variety of creative contexts and we are supporting centres who are delivering the Course and/or Units during this first year (please remember that you can deliver any of the Units of the Course as a free standing Unit(s)). During the session we plan to compile and publish case studies so that we can share good and creative practice and inspire centres to consider delivering this new SQA Course and qualification.

A great strength of this Course is the number of possible and potential contexts for delivery, either as within an individual subject area or in a cross curricular/interdisciplinary setting. For example, we already know of centres who are delivering the Creative Industries Course in the context of the following areas: creative fashion, creating a radio programme, photography exhibition, community drama production.

For more information and for details of the structure of the Creative Industries Course, please see the following page.



Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5)

Available August 2011

Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; these Courses also develop broader employability and other transferable skills. Skills for Work Courses are already available in a number of diverse sectors and the **Creative Industries Skills for Work Course** is an exciting new addition to this group of qualifications offered by SQA.

This new Course is being designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre.

The primary target group for this Course would be school pupils in S3 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross-cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working.

The Creative Industries Course comprises 4 x 40 hour Units with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building, knowledge and understanding and employability and transferable skills. The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ **Creative Industries: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Skills Development (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: The Creative Process (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Creative Project (SCQF level 5)**

These Units are ideally suited to a wide range of creative contexts including, eg a musical production, an art exhibition/display, production of school yearbook, production of a music CD, a drama or dance production, an animated short film, a website or blog, a fashion show, a community project.

For details of Unit Specifications, Course Arrangements and Assessment materials please visit www.sqa.org.uk, select Qualifications/NQ/Skills for Work (from the left-hand menu) and select Creative Industries.