

## **Advanced Higher Biology: Engagement Seminar Feedback Summary**

This document is a summary of the feedback responses from the Revised Advanced Higher Biology Engagement Seminars.

Four engagement Seminars were held in February and March 2011 in locations across Scotland. Approximately 250 attendees provided responses in groups ranging in number from 3 to 10. Individual and group responses were also gathered using an on-line questionnaire.

The overall response to the draft arrangements for the revision of the course was very positive. Many respondents were enthusiastic about the revised materials and most of the comments indicated that the suggested contents were already very close to being acceptable to the profession. Only a very small minority expressed an overall negative response. Much of the feedback received concerned suggested amendments. The detailed feedback on amendments is available from SQA by request.

The proposed course has a structure and contents that reflect an increased emphasis on the importance of skills. Both Units 1 and 2 include sections covering the most relevant or important skills and techniques and Unit 3 has a great emphasis on investigative science skills. The responses received indicate a clear enthusiasm for the adoption of these changes. For example, when asked what the benefits of the revised Unit 3 content might be in terms of candidate performance the response was very encouraging. Respondents highlighted an anticipated improvement in skills of investigation and indicated that candidates would become better scientists and be better prepared for further education.

Overall, the response was very positive and the revised structure of the course found to be highly desirable pending suggested modifications. A majority of participants requested that resources and CPD be made available to ensure the success of this development.

### **QDT Response**

The QDT welcomed the positive and thorough response to the draft revision. As a result of this feedback, the QDT are happy to adopt the changes in structure proposed in the draft revised Advanced Higher Biology arrangements.

As a result of this feedback, the Units will be reviewed to further declutter and streamline the contents. In particular we will focus on areas that were highlighted (physiology, cancer, ecology, classification, parasitology, evaluation) and ensure that the flow and narrative of the Units is appropriate. The QDT will also consider carefully any practical work mentioned in the arrangements in terms of its purpose in learning and assessment.