

6 March 2013

To: Head of centres
Cc : SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and Colleges
Education Authorities
Education Scotland

Action by Recipient	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Response required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note and pass on
<input type="checkbox"/>	None — update/information only

Contact: Angela Baird
E-mail: angela.baird@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

This letter is intended to offer advice and support for staff responsible for Geography. It contains information about the following:

1. **Understanding Standards**
2. **Internal and External Assessment Reports**
3. **Appeals**
4. **OS Maps**
5. **Support for Centres**
6. **Qualification Support Teams**
7. **Marker Opportunities**

1. Understanding Standards

Centres are reminded about the Understanding Standards website which can be accessed directly at www.understandingstandards.org.uk or through the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk). In December 2012, additional items to support Advanced Higher Geography were added to the website. This is an excellent resource for any candidate or teacher who wishes to understand more fully the standards required at each level.

2. Internal and External Assessment Reports

The 2012 reports are available and can be found using the following link:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/2474.html>

These reports offer useful advice on candidate performance to those involved in the delivery of Geography qualifications.

3. Appeals

Centres are reminded that when constructing prelim examinations which will be used as evidence for appeals, that the prelim must replicate the SQA paper in terms of the standard, format, duration and security. When adapting old past paper questions for use in a prelim, centres must therefore ensure that the mark allocation reflects current practice. More

detailed information can be found in the Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals advice which can be found on the following page of the SQA website:

www.sqa.org.uk/appeals

4. OS Maps

SQA is not able to provide centres with OS maps. SQA purchases maps specifically for use in the examination. Any spare maps, of which there are very few, are sent to the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers.

5. Support for Centres

Centres often request training in relation to internal and external assessment as well as information on their candidates' performance. Information on the services available to centres can be found using the following links:

Performance Report (External Assessment)

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47472.3062.html>

Bespoke In-service Training (External Assessment)

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47470.3063.html>

Development Visit (Internal Assessment)

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47603.html>

6. Qualification Support Team

In a previous update letter it was indicated that SQA intends to set up National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to replace Assessment Panels. The decision has been made to wait until the new qualifications are fully implemented before putting the NQSTs in place.

7. Marker Opportunities

There are currently opportunities available. If you are interested in becoming a Marker, please visit the Appointee Opportunities section of SQA website:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42986.html>

I trust that this information is of use to you. Should you wish any further advice about the content of this letter please contact me as indicated above.

Yours faithfully



Angela Baird
Qualifications Manager
People and Services