

6 March 2012

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of  
National Qualifications in Geology**

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
Note — update/information only

Contact: Elaine Riley  
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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update – Geology

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Geology.

The following items are included:

- 1 National Assessment Bank items: cut - off scores
- 2 External Assessment Reports
- 3 Geology Teaching Exercises – Intermediate 2, Higher
- 4 Guidance for Appeals Evidence

**1 National Assessment Bank Items: cut-off scores**

Centre staff are reminded that National Assessment Bank items on the secure site have cut off scores as part of their Assessment Information. Centres are reminded to make sure that the correct cut - off scores are used.

**2 External Assessment Reports**

The External Assessment Reports for the diet 2011 examinations in Geology have been updated to the relevant subject pages for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Geology on the SQA website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/3296.html>

Centre staff are advised to study these reports as they provide information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers/lecturers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. Reports contain detailed

information on areas where candidates performed well, areas which candidates found demanding, advice to centres for the preparation of future candidates and statistical information.

### **3 Geology Teaching Exercises – Intermediate 2, Higher**

Geology teaching exercises for Intermediate 2 and Higher have now been published and can be accessed from the web page above, in the right hand column under Support Materials. Classroom exercises for Geological Structures and Relationships, and marking instructions, are available to download for Intermediate 2. Map exercises and marking instructions are available to download for Higher. We hope that these will be a useful additional resource for Centre staff.

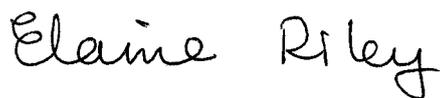
### **4 Guidance for Appeals Evidence**

Centre staff should be aware of issues raised during the appeals process for Examination Diet 2011. Evidence must be robust, and if a prelim examination is to be used as evidence, it should reflect the final examination as far as possible, in terms of total number of marks awarded, time allocated and level of difficulty. Time allowed should be marked clearly on the paper. Centre staff are advised to consult the Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals Guidance on Evidence Requirements Document, which can be downloaded from

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/EstimatesAbsentees\\_and\\_AssessmentAppealsMarch2011.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/EstimatesAbsentees_and_AssessmentAppealsMarch2011.pdf) for further advice.

I hope that all of the information above has been of help to you. If you have any enquiries about NQ Geology, please do not hesitate to contact me via the details provided at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Elaine Riley

Qualifications Manager