

1 March 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: SQA Business Development Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for English in your school or college.

Revision to Courses from August 2010

As previously indicated in the English Update letter of 27 January 2010, Writing will be externally assessed at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher levels from 2010/11 onwards. This will be achieved by a folio of Writing submitted in advance of the examination. The Writing folio will contribute 20% to the final award, with Close Reading and Critical Essays each contributing 40% (previously 50%).

The previous Update letter indicated that internal assessment would remain unchanged. However, following an internal review of content and a further consultation with the Qualifications Design Team, SQA has decided to make the following changes which we feel will benefit centres:

- ◆ The Language Study Unit D8VH will be retained with the same requirements as at present. To reflect the content, learning and skills of this Unit the credit will be increased to 1.5 credits (9 SCQF points) and the notional length increased to 60 hours (this will apply to all levels Access 3 to Higher).
- ◆ The Literary Study Unit D8VJ will be retained with the same requirements as at present. To reflect the content, learning and skills of this Unit the credit will also be increased to 1.5 credits (9 SCQF points) and the notional length increased to 60 hours (this will apply to all levels Access 3 to Higher).

Internal assessment requirements for both of these Units will not change. These Units will be the mandatory Units of the Course.

- ◆ Personal Study Unit D8VK and D8VL will be removed from the Course but remain available as a free-standing Unit – Spoken and Written – at all levels. To preserve the principle of independent study, the support notes for Language Study and Literary Study will be augmented to provide more advice about personalisation and choice.

Detailed advice, guidance and rationale will be given at the events being held in April. Changes to the Arrangements and Estimates and Appeals advice will be available by May 2010.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan R Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications