

8 April 2013

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

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update – Mathematics

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

The following items are included:

- 1 Advice on the use of calculators**
- 2 Examination structure summary**
- 3 Standard Grade – Marking from image**
- 4 Statistical Information 2012**
- 5 Progression information**

Appendix 1: Summary Question Paper structure table

Appendix 2: Progression information for diet 2012

1 Advice on the use of calculators

SQA is not able to provide a list of acceptable or unacceptable electronic devices/calculator models. Candidates must ensure they comply with the following guidance as taken from the National Qualifications Conditions and Arrangements document (page 13):

Items prohibited from the examination room

Any candidate found in possession of such equipment will have their entry for the exam cancelled.

Mobile phones

Including mobile or WAP enabled telephones, or any other electronic communication device.

Digital audio players (DAP)

Including devices which store organise and play digital music/audio files. DAP devices, which are most commonly known as MP3 players or iPods, play music files and may also play other file formats and store text.

Other prohibited items

Personal electronic aids, calculator cases, pencil cases, books, notes, or paper of any kind should not be taken into the examination room except when specifically allowed in the instructions for the examination.

Calculators

A list of the external assessments where a calculator can be used will be provided in the *Handbook for Invigilators*.

For question papers where the use of a calculator is allowed, candidates are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the regulations. Centres should make candidates aware of these regulations and their responsibilities beforehand.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that:

- the calculator has sufficient power supply
 - the calculator is in good working condition
 - calculators are not designed or adapted to offer any of the following facilities:
 - language translators
 - symbolic algebra manipulation
 - symbolic differentiation or integration
 - communication with other machines or the internet
- there is no retrievable information stored in them, this includes:
- databanks
 - dictionaries
 - mathematical formulas

An invigilator should issue a candidate with a replacement calculator if required.

Candidates found in possession of an unauthorised calculator may have their examination entry cancelled.

Sharing of calculators is not permitted.

2 Examination structure summary

To assist centres, a table summarising the structure of the Mathematics Question Papers is provided as Appendix 1.

3 Standard Grade – Marking from image

This year's Standard Grade examination scripts will be "marked from image" – as part of this process all scripts will be scanned by computer into an electronic format.

To enable scripts to be scanned successfully, it is important that candidates write in dark blue or black ink. We do not recommend candidates write in pencil, other than to draw or complete diagrams, as their responses may not be captured during scanning.

4 Statistical Information 2012

A variety of statistical information can be accessed through the SQA statistics section of the website, which contains a range of statistical reports on uptake and attainment in our qualifications. Detailed information regarding Mathematics examinations, including grade boundaries, pre and post appeals data and mean component marks can be found on the following webpage:

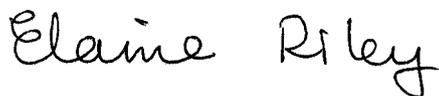
sqa.org.uk/statistics

5 Progression information

Progression information for Mathematics for 2011 to 2012 can be found in the appendix to this update letter.

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

Yours faithfully



Elaine Riley

Qualifications Manager

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