

17 June 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update

The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Media Studies

Media Studies Update

We would like to thank all those who came to the recent launch days for the Revised Media Studies Arrangements across the country. We appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk to so many practising teachers and lecturers from all over Scotland.

There was only one area of the new arrangements for session 2004-5 where further advice was requested and that concerned Unseen Analysis at Intermediate 2. The expanded advice is as follows and supplements advice and a bank of specimen questions given on Pages 1-6 of the document on Unseen Analysis issued at the launches and available on the SQA website:

You should choose a text which has not been studied, from a genre which you have studied with the class. You should note that answers must deal with Categories, Language and Anchorage in order to be eligible for a pass. If any of these is omitted in a candidate's responses, a pass cannot be achieved and the maximum mark will be 9/20. You should set questions which will sometimes be high value and allow extended answers on Categories and Language and a specific question on Anchorage. In this event, candidates will have the opportunity to gain up to the maximum of 20 marks. Markers will be asked to check that the three required criteria have been addressed (not necessarily equally) and when satisfied that this is the case, will mark and total answers out of 20.

A second point, which the Principal Assessor and the examining team will make in the report on the examination at Higher, is that some centres did not include copies of the text for Unseen Analysis with the scripts.

You are reminded that a copy of the text must be included **with each envelope** as each marker only marks one pack of scripts from a centre. If you have thirty candidates and are going to send three envelopes, each must contain a copy of the text used, in addition to candidate scripts. Where this is not done, there is delay in the marking process and possibly there could be delay in certification.

This is particularly important as all three levels, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, and Higher will have the same arrangements for submission in future examination diets and the effects of omission would be even more damaging.

Finally, we would remind you that there will be a Professional Development Workshop for Media Studies in Stirling on November 20 2004. This will deal with marking standards and scripts from 2004 and also areas like Unseen Analysis in more depth. Details and application forms were available at the recent launches and are currently in schools, colleges and on the website at: **www.sqa.org.uk**

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

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' and 'W'.

Alan Wilson Qualifications Manager.
Karin Wilson Qualifications Officer