

Our ref: Access/SR/01

19 February 2007

To SQA Co-ordinator

Further education colleges,  
secondary schools, special schools,  
Directors of Education  
SCIS, SFEU, LTS

**For the attention of centre staff responsible for  
Access 1 and 2 provision**

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

Contact Name: Sandy Riddell at Glasgow  
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Dear Colleague,

**National Qualifications update — Access 1 and 2**

This letter provides an update for those staff in centres who are involved in the delivery of qualifications at Access 1 and 2 levels.

**Eleven new Units at Access 1 level**

There has been considerable interest in the new Access 1 Units that were first introduced in 2003 at Supported and Independent level. As centres have been asking for greater choice at these new levels, we have now developed a further batch of 11 Units with the following titles:

- ◆ Art Activity Routines: An Introduction (Access 1, Supported level)
- ◆ Music: Exploring Sound (Access 1, Supported level)
- ◆ Music: Listening to Music (Access 1, Supported level)
- ◆ Music: Producing a Sound (Access 1, Supported level)
- ◆ Morals and Rules (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Religious Festivals: Hinduism (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Religious Festivals: Judaism (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Religious Festivals: Sikhism (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Religious Festivals: Christianity (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Religious Festivals: Islam (Access 1, Independent level)
- ◆ Understanding Scottish Cultural Festivals (Access 1, Independent level)

Copies of these new Units are available on the CD-Rom enclosed with this letter and/or can be downloaded from the Access 1 and 2 section of SQA's website.

To find the Access 1 and 2 section of SQA's website, go to the SQA homepage ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) and look at the top right corner, click on 'Choose a section' and on the drop down menu select Access 1 and 2 and click 'go'.

### **CD-Rom for Access 1, Supported and Independent levels**

With the publication of the 11 new Units referred to above, we have now increased the range of Access 1 Supported and Independent level Units to 28 Independent and 11 Supported. These new Units are available on our website alongside the existing Units at Access 1, however, we thought it would be helpful if centres had a copy of all the Supported and Independent level Units developed to date on one CD-Rom. Please therefore find a copy of the CD-Rom enclosed.

### **Further Unit development**

In line with demands from centres, we plan to develop more Units at Access 1 and 2 levels over the coming year. Further Units in Art and PE at Access 1 Supported level are already under development and development of more Access 2 Units will be our focus during 2007/08, with a review of the PSE Course and Units being our priority. I hope to write to you again in the coming months to update you on our plans regarding this development.

### **Changes to the exemplars for the Access 1 Independent level Units in Measurement**

The exemplars included in the support notes for the following Units have been amended to include pictures which centres may find helpful.

- ◆ Investigating Length in Familiar Situations
- ◆ Investigating Measurement
- ◆ Investigating Volume in Familiar Situations
- ◆ Investigating Weight in Familiar Situations

Centres delivering or planning to deliver these Access 1 Independent Units may want to check the latest version of the Unit Specifications published on SQA's website or on the enclosed CD-Rom. Centres should note, however, that the standards expressed within the Units (the Outcomes and Performance Criteria and Evidence Requirements) remain unchanged, only the exemplars within the support notes have been updated.

### **New website for Access 1 and 2 under construction**

Over the past three years we have moved all of our Unit specifications and publications relating to Access 1 and 2 into one section of SQA's website in the hope that this will make it easier for centres. While we have had some positive feedback from centres about this move, we still receive a lot of phone calls and e-mails from staff who find the main SQA website difficult to navigate and who have difficulty locating the information they need. We have therefore begun the development of a completely new website which will be specifically for centres who deliver Access 1 and 2 qualifications.

The new site is still under construction but we hope to be able to write to you before the summer with more news and hopefully with the new website address for you to check.

### **Six new NABs for Skillstart Units at Access 2**

NABs to support six of the new Skillstart Units are at the final stage of development and should be available on the secure area of SQA's website by the end of March. The six NABs will support the following Units from the new Skillstart 1 Group Award (G852 08):

DV2R 08	Skillstart: Numeracy in a Work-related Environment
DV2T 08	Skillstart: Developing Skills for the Workplace
DV2V 08	Car Valeting: An Activity Approach
DV2W 08	Housekeeping: An Activity Approach
DV2X 08	Hairdressing-Salon Assistant: An Activity Approach
DV2Y 08	Customer Care

### **Revision to Science NABs**

We have made some slight revisions to the NABs which support the Access 2 Science Units. These Units were revised in 2003 to reduce the amount of evidence required to three experiments and three sources of handling information for each Unit. However, there still seemed to be some ambiguity over evidence requirements stated in the NABs. We have now amended the NABs to remove this ambiguity and to ensure they are consistent with the requirements stated in the Units. The revised NABs are now available on the secure area of SQA's website.

### **Support and guidance for centres**

We currently have an additional resource to support Access 1 and 2 levels. Sandra Sutherland has been seconded from her post as PT Additional Support Needs at Inverurie Academy to act as a Qualifications Development Manager for SQA. Sandra started in September 2007 and her main role is to provide advice and guidance to centres on delivery and gather feedback from centres on our qualifications at these levels. So far Sandra has visited over 40 centres, attended several Local Authority network meetings and communicated with several other centres by phone and e-mail. The feedback we have received from centres regarding this service has been excellent.

It is not intended and will not be possible for Sandra to visit every centre individually during the period of her secondment. Instead she will focus on centres that are having particular difficulty with some aspect of Access 1&2 provision. If you would like to contact Sandra you can e-mail her at [sandra.sutherland@sqa.org.uk](mailto:sandra.sutherland@sqa.org.uk).

### **Changing the title of Clusters to Courses**

The term 'Cluster' has been used since the Higher Still Development Programme to refer to subject-specific groupings of Units at Access 2 and 3 level (made up of three Unit credits) which provide articulation with Courses at Intermediate 1 level and above.

The term 'Cluster' was discussed as part of a consultation carried out in 2004 during the review of our Qualification Portfolio and one of the conclusions of that review was that we should change the title of 'Clusters' to 'Courses' to bring them into line with other qualifications within our portfolio. As a result we have now decided to rationalise the titling

of National Qualifications by dispensing with the title 'Cluster' and extending the use of the title 'Course' to Access 2 and 3 levels (SCQF levels 2 and 3).

This will mean that all 'Clusters' that currently exist at Access 2 and 3 levels will be called 'Courses' in any of our publications that have been published since 1 January 2007 and on the new Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) documentation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Riddell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sandy Riddell  
Project Manager  
National Qualifications Product Development