

April 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary schools and further education colleges

Cc: Directors of Education
SCIS
HMIE
SQA Customer Support Managers

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

Contact: Jennifer di Folco at Dalkeith
Direct line: 0131-271 6774
E-mail: Jennifer.difolco@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

The contents of this letter should be passed to a member of staff responsible for the delivery of NQ Art and Design.

This newsletter is intended to offer further support and guidance about our exhibition plans for 2008/09, the updated Art and Design pages on the Understanding Standards website and information on Appeals.

It is hoped that the information is useful to teachers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer di Folco

Jennifer di Folco
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications — Art and Design

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

1. ‘A’ Exhibition National Gallery of Scotland 2007

The exhibition held in the National Gallery of Scotland from October 2007 to January 2008 was extremely successful. Over 10,000 school pupils visited the exhibition which featured Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher level work from the 2007 diet of examinations. As part of the same project we were also pleased to tour Advanced Higher level portfolios to five major cities in Scotland.

Many centres reported on how much they enjoyed the catalogues which accompanied the exhibitions. Indeed, feedback from both events was very positive.

We are very grateful and would like to thank all teachers and candidates who supported the projects.

2. Web gallery

Expressive and Design Activity work at Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher level from the 2007 exhibitions can be viewed on the Art and Design page of SQA’s website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14287.html>).

3. Exhibition plans 2008/09

Following on from the success of the 2007 exhibitions, we are currently in the early stages of planning an exhibition of Higher level work in the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh from 15 October 2008 to 6 November 2008, an exhibition of Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher level work in the People’s Palace in Glasgow from 28 November 2008 to 16 January 2009 and a third exhibition of Advanced Higher portfolios in the National Gallery of Scotland from 21 January 2009 to 20 March 2009.

Again we hope to put in place the opportunity for centres to apply to SQA for funds to assist with travel costs to the exhibitions. There will also be a catalogue to accompany these events.

Linked to the exhibitions, we are also planning a series of skills update workshops for teachers interested in learning new techniques and skills in the areas of Portrait painting, Millinery, Jewellery and Textiles. More information will be issued to SQA Co-ordinators in all centres as soon as our details are finalised.

4. Low uptake

Centres are reminded that the Project Based National Course — Design Higher level and the Project Based National Course — Visual Arts Higher level will no longer be available after the 2009 diet of examinations. These Courses are subject to the low uptake policy and are being removed from the catalogue. The Units that make up these Courses will remain in the catalogue and can still be delivered as stand-alone Units.

For further information see the low uptake letter issued to centres on the 11 December 2007.

5. Understanding Standards website

As part of our commitment of continuing support for teachers and candidates we have published new Intermediate 1 and 2 material on the Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk).

This site gives information about the Courses, marking instructions, assessment criteria and exemplification of national standards of Expressive and Design Activity as well as candidate responses to the Intermediate 2 question paper. This is an interactive site and the user is invited to: view and assess the work, submit a mark and then have the opportunity to call up comments about the work, and the actual mark given by the examiner. Centres are encouraged to access this material.

We already have new material written for Higher level and this will be published soon.

6. Standard Grade question paper

Currently SQA issue the Standard Grade Titles for the examination in letter format in the December distribution and we will continue to do so. However, please note we are no longer issuing the Standard Grade question paper (in paper format) to centres. Instead the question paper is published on the Art and Design page of SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/31451.html>).

The question paper can also be accessed and downloaded by the SQA Co-ordinator.

7. Assessment Panel membership

We are currently seeking to appoint two new members to the Art and Design Assessment Panel. This group meets twice a year and the main focus and purpose of the discussion is about matters of assessment. If any teacher of Art and Design is interested in becoming a member please get in touch with Jonathan Gillies (jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk) or myself at SQA for further information.

8. Visits to Central Marking 2008

As part of SQA's open and transparent policy we have invited Local Authorities to nominate teachers interested in viewing this years' Central Marking procedures from Standard Grade to Advanced Higher level.

The events give teachers a valuable opportunity for personal development and have proved to be very successful in previous years.

Although this year has seen a great demand for the events, a limited number of places are still available for the Standard Grade and Higher Photography for the Media events.

Limited places at these events are available on a first come first served basis and should you wish to attend either event please contact Jonathan Gillies (jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk).

9. Appeals 2008

In light of our experience at Appeals 2007 it is worth re-issuing the following information about the evidence required for an Appeal.

SQA's recently updated *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements* document is where teachers will find clarified information about generating evidence requirements for Absentee and Appeals consideration.

Centres are advised to pay particular attention to the Art and Design subject-specific pages of this document. These pages outline the exact evidence requirements for Appeals for each level of the NQ Courses.

Please note that for Intermediate 2 and Higher levels, an Appeal is for the overall Course award. The generation of alternative evidence for the practical component is not mandatory (although perfectly acceptable if available) but the evidence for the question paper is mandatory.

The following is a table of information about gathering evidence for Appeals for all levels.

Level	Component	Mandatory for Appeals
Standard Grade	Is further evidence for Critical Activity required?	No
Standard Grade	Is further evidence for Expressive Activity required?	Yes (class-work and/or prelim evidence)
Intermediate 1	Is further evidence for Practical Folio required?	No
Intermediate 1	Is evidence of a Summary required?	Yes
Intermediate 2	Is further evidence for Practical Folio required?	No
Intermediate 2	Is evidence for the Question Paper (eg prelim) required?	Yes
Higher	Is further evidence for Practical Folio required?	No
Higher	Is evidence for the Question Paper (eg prelim) required?	Yes
Advanced Higher	Is further evidence for the Folio required?	No