

October 2008

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

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
Director of Education
HMIE

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

Contact: Jennifer di Folco at Dalkeith
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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

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

This newsletter is intended to offer further support and guidance about external and Internal Assessment reports, Art Exhibitions, the Advanced Higher Statement of Intent and the recruitment of Markers.

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
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications — Art and Design

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

1 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 11 December 2007.

2 External and Internal Assessment reports

Reports covering the 2008 examinations at all levels are available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These reports discuss overall performance of candidates and give detailed feedback on issues relating to the submissions. Teachers are strongly advised to avail themselves of this valuable material.

3 Distribution of marks

The breakdown of the Practical Folio marks was welcomed by centres. The mark for the Design Activity and the Expressive Activity was issued to centres in August 2008 and this Item Mark file can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator on SQA Net.

4 Key submission/distribution dates 2009

The key submission dates will be issued to all centres in December 2008 along with Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment and Design Brief/Evaluation forms.

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, centres are reminded that we are no longer issuing the Standard Grade question paper (in paper format) to centres. Instead the question paper will be published on the Art and Design page of SQA's website in December 2008 and can be downloaded from there.

5 Advanced Higher Statement of Intent

The Advanced Higher Statement of Intent has been updated and an electronic version has now been made available on the Art and Design page of SQA's website, giving candidates the opportunity to download an electronic copy of the Statement of Intent and produce a typed up document.

Please note that there is now a separate Statement of Intent for both the Expressive Enquiry and the Design Enquiry. Guidance documents for both the Expressive Enquiry and the Design Enquiry have also been uploaded to the Art and Design page of SQA's website to assist teachers/lecturers and candidates in the completion of the Statement of Intent.

The Statement of Intent will no longer be distributed to centres in December. Centres are advised to access the document from the Art and Design page of SQA's website.

6 Art exhibitions

An exhibition of top range Higher level artwork is currently being displayed at the Scottish Parliament until 6 November 2008. The display consists of over 170 pieces of framed Expressive and Design artwork alongside 3D Design work from candidates throughout Scotland.

Further exhibitions will take place in the coming months at the People's Palace in Glasgow and the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The People's Palace will exhibit Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher level artwork from 1 December 2008 – 16 January 2009 and SQA's first ever exhibition of Advanced Higher artwork will take place at the National Gallery of Scotland from 22 January 2009 – 19 March 2009.

Travel grants are available to support school group visits to the exhibitions and details have recently been issued to your SQA Co-ordinator.

For further information on SQA's Art exhibitions please visit our website: www.sqa.org.uk/art2008.

7 Markers

Due to the increasing number of candidates entering for the PBNC Higher Photography for the Media, we are currently seeking to appoint new Markers. In addition, we are also looking to increase the number of reserve Markers for Advanced Higher Art and Design. If any teacher of Art and Design is interested in applying to become a Marker please get in touch with Jonathan Gillies (jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk) or myself at SQA for further information.

8 Understanding Standards website

The Art and Design pages on the Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk) have recently been updated to include valuable examples of candidates' work at Higher level. The guides are intended to provide you with an opportunity to gain an insight into the marking process: by showing you examples of candidates work, giving you the opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding and, ultimately, to give you a better understanding of national standards and how to apply these to your own marking.

Teachers are strongly advised to access the valuable material on the Understanding Standards website.

9 SQAsecure website

As part of our commitment of continuing support for teachers we have published updated exemplification of Standard Grade Critical Activity on the secure area of SQA's website.

SQA Co-ordinators in centres have access to the secure area and teacher/lecturers are advised to contact their SQA Co-ordinator to access the updated Standard Grade exemplification.

10 Curriculum for Excellence update

Consultation on the next generation of National Qualifications

As colleagues will know the Scottish Government is currently finalising its consultation on the next generation of National Qualifications for Scotland as part of its Curriculum for Excellence programme. The consultation period ends on 31 October 2008. Thereafter responses will be analysed by Ipsos Mori and a report will be made to the Government. It is anticipated that the Government's formal response will be published in the spring of 2009. SQA is currently establishing a new 'Curriculum for Excellence' Qualifications Development Team to lead the development of new and revised qualifications emerging from the consultation.

Action research projects

Following the success of last year's projects and their showcase at the Scottish Learning Festival in September, we are delighted to announce that six new projects have recently been commissioned. The six — at Bathgate Academy, Brannock Academy, Cumnock Academy, Kersland School, North Lanarkshire Council and St Roch's Secondary — involve participant led exploration of assessment, attainment and achievement through existing SQA qualifications with a view to informing innovation and change within Curriculum for Excellence. Projects include developments in online assessment, Supply Chain Management and Core Skills, vocational approaches to modern languages, and personal development.

For further detail on any of this work please contact John Allan, Policy and New Products team (e-mail: john.allan@sqa.org.uk).