

17 December 2007

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

Cc: Directors of Education  
SCIS  
HMIE  
SQA Customer Support Managers

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 a member of staff responsible for the delivery of NQ Art and Design.

This newsletter is intended to offer further support and guidance about recent staffing changes and the updated Art and Design web pages on the Understanding Standards website ([www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk)). Information on the exhibition at the National Galleries of Scotland and the withdrawal of the Advanced Higher Research and Appreciation Course is also included.

It is hoped that the information is useful to teachers.

Can I take this opportunity to pass on my season's greetings for the festive period and wish you every success during 2008.

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

*Jennifer di Folco*

Yours sincerely

Jennifer di Folco  
Qualifications Manager  
National Qualifications — Art and Design

## National Qualifications — Art and Design update

### 1 Staffing changes

I'm pleased to inform you that Jonathan Gillies has recently been appointed as the new Qualifications Officer for National Qualifications Art and Design. Should you have any queries with regards to Art and Design please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan on 0845 213 5482, or by e-mail at [jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk).

### 2 Understanding Standards website

The Art and Design web pages on the Understanding Standards website ([www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk)) have recently been updated to include valuable examples of candidates' work at Intermediate 1 and 2 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.

### 3 Low uptake policy

SQA's low uptake policy was endorsed by the National Qualifications Steering Group (NQSG) in October 2003.

Can I take this opportunity to further remind you that the following National Course has been withdrawn from the catalogue:

C006 13      *Art and Design: Research and Appreciation*

However, the Units making up this Course will be retained in the catalogue as stand-alone Units:

D021 13      *Research and Appreciation*

D022 13      *Visual Presentation: Art and Design*

The following Project-based National Courses are scheduled to be withdrawn from the catalogue after 2009 (2009 last diet):

C01A 12      *Design* (please note Design C01A 11 will remain a valid Course)

C06D 12      *Visual Arts*

However, the Units making up the Courses will be retained in the catalogue as stand-alone Units.

For further information please refer to the letter sent to centres by Linda Murray on 11 December 2007 — currently available for download from SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

### 4 Principal Assessor and Senior Verifier reports

Reports covering the 2007 examinations at all levels are available on SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://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.

## **5 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 on 8 August 2007 and this Item Mark file can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator on SQA net.

## **6 Key submission/distribution dates 2008**

The key submission dates have been issued to all centres in December 2007 along with notes of information for teachers/lecturers for internal and external assessment, design brief/evaluation and statement of intent forms.

The Standard Grade examination titles have also been issued to SQA Co-ordinators in centres.

Centres should note, however, that SQA will no longer send paper copies of the question paper (the titles) for the Standard Grade examination to centres for distribution to pupils on the day of the examination.

Instead, the question paper (the titles) will be published on the Art and Design web page in December 2007. Centres can download the question paper from the web page if they wish to continue the practice of issuing it to candidates on the day of the examination.

## **7 National Galleries of Scotland — exhibition of artwork**

An exhibition of top range Standard Grade, Intermediate and Higher level artwork is currently being displayed in the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, until 4 January 2008. The display consists of over a 100 pieces of framed expressive artwork alongside 3D design work from candidates throughout Scotland.

The exhibition has proved to be a huge success with over 7,000 candidates throughout Scotland having visited the exhibition.

A limited number of teacher's catalogues featuring the artwork on display are now available. Requests should be sent by e-mail to [jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk).

All artwork currently on display in the National Galleries of Scotland can also be viewed on SQA's website.

## **8 Advanced Higher Tour**

During November 2007 Advanced Higher artwork was toured throughout Scotland in five different locations. Delegates attending each event were given the opportunity to view top range folios of artwork along with a presentation from the Principal Assessor.

Artwork displayed during the Advanced Higher tour will soon be available to view on SQA's website.