

25 January 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Directors of Education, SCIS
Scottish Executive Key Stakeholders
Teaching Associations/Unions
Higher Education Institutions — Department of Education
SQA Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Art and Design Update

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

The newsletter updates staff on issues from last session 2004/05 and highlights important information for the current session 2005/06 for National Qualifications in Art and Design. It also includes important information on the revised NQ Courses in Art and Design for Access 3, Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher for session commencing 2006/07.

I hope the contents of this letter are helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer di Folco

Jennifer di Folco
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications — Art and Design

National Qualifications — Art and Design

1 Diet 2005

The following is a brief summary of the outcome of the 2005 examination diet for Art and Design. Further details can be obtained from the Principal Assessor reports which are available on the Art and Design subject page of SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk (select Art & Design from the NQ subject drop-down menu).

Advanced Higher: Enquiry Courses

- ◆ There was a slight increase in the pass-rate for 2005 for both Design and Expressive Enquiry Courses, the pass-rates being 71.1% for Expressive and 68.6% for the Design Course.
- ◆ There was an improvement in the quality of work submitted for the Design Enquiry and this was reflected in the increased A and B awards.
- ◆ The number of candidates undertaking the Art and Design Studies option increased.
- ◆ Folios were well organised this year, with sheets being numbered, which aided the marking process.
- ◆ It was encouraging to see some 'motion graphics' submissions being presented.

Advanced Higher: Research and Appreciation

- ◆ The pass-rate was extremely good and is sitting at 96%.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that support materials for this Course are available and electronic copies can be accessed via the SQA Co-ordinator.

Higher

- ◆ Results were good for Diet 2005.
- ◆ There was an 84% pass-rate and the grade boundaries are now set at 70, 60 and 50%, which is a sign that the subject is in a healthy state.
- ◆ For the first time since its inception, the national average mean marks for Design and Expressive Activity components were almost on a par with each other, sitting at 60 and 61 respectively.
- ◆ The written paper is stable, as is the Practical Assignment, with the average mean marks being 52.8 and 28.5 respectively.

Intermediate 1 and 2

- ◆ A substantial increase in presentations gives an indication that candidates were moving from Standard Grade to National Courses in Art and Design.
- ◆ The pass-rate for Intermediate 1 was 84% and 92.9% for Intermediate 2.
- ◆ Design Activity was particularly strong this year and candidates' enthusiasm for their subject matter was clearly evident in the submissions.
- ◆ It was noted that there was a lot of 3D work submitted for Intermediate 2, compared with other levels.
- ◆ This year, a number of Markers felt that the Intermediate 1 Summaries lacked critical comment.
- ◆ Using Intermediate 2 question papers as support materials for Intermediate 1 candidates should be discouraged.

Standard Grade

- ◆ Although presentations were down on last year, Standard Grade still remains healthy in terms of entry figures.
- ◆ At Credit 1, there was a difference in the pass-rates for the different elements, ie Design Activity was sitting at 23.3%, Expressive Activity at 11.8% and Critical Activity at 17.1%. There was a big difference between the three elements, but one would have expected to see the practical elements on a par with each other. This year there was a slight drop of 1.1% for the Design Activity at Credit 1.
- ◆ The marking instructions have been refreshed for Standard Grade and are available on the Art and Design subject page of SQA's website: **www.sqa.org.uk** (select Art & Design from the NQ subject drop-down menu).

Critical Activity

- ◆ Markers noted that a lot of candidate responses were descriptive rather than critical in content and this was more evident in the Design area. The 1,500 advisory word limit has been helpful to candidates and often meant that the Critical Activities were more structured. Where Critical Activities far in excess of 1,500 words were submitted, the essays tended to lack focus and structure.
- ◆ Exemplar materials for the Critical Activity are available and electronic copies can be accessed via the SQA Co-ordinator.

Expressive Activity

- ◆ The work submitted was of a very good standard and, in a great majority of cases, way beyond Credit level. However, some submissions were in pencil and, although not technically going against the submission criteria, many Markers found these submissions difficult to mark.

2 Appeals

Centres are referred to the following documents:

Estimates, Absentees and External Assessment Appeals: guidance on evidence requirements, April 2004

This document provides guidance on evidence requirements for estimates, absentee consideration and external assessment appeals for subject specialists in centres delivering National Courses.

Appeals update letter issued May 2005

When preparing estimates and compiling evidence for absentee consideration or external assessment appeals, you should refer to (note this list is not exhaustive):

- ◆ Course Arrangements documents, which include Course grade descriptions.
- ◆ Assessment instruments.
- ◆ Marking instructions.
- ◆ Candidate evidence.
- ◆ Any other relevant information (eg Principal Assessor reports, subject update letters).

Reading these documents in conjunction with the subject-specific pages of the appeals guidance document will provide you with a working knowledge of the process and evidence requirements for estimates, absentee consideration and appeals for National Courses.

Advanced Higher

Further evidence for an appeal should be submitted where possible. This additional work should be enclosed with the folio.

Higher, Intermediate 1 and 2

Valid appeals require additional demonstrable evidence to be supplied in the form of integrated assessment (eg prelim) that mirrors the external exam. As the Expressive and Design folios are produced over a period of time we do not expect further practical evidence. However, centres must submit a secure written prelim/class test and should submit any additional material which is likely to strengthen this evidence. This will ensure that the original evidence is reviewed.

Failure to submit any further evidence, ie a secure written prelim/class test, will result in no appeal.

Standard Grade

Further evidence for an appeal in Standard Grade Critical Activity should be submitted where possible, eg a Critical Activity piece of work from S3. If appealing for Expressive Activity, centres must submit a prelim piece of art work or similar as further evidence.

Failure to submit any further evidence in Expressive Activity will result in no appeal being awarded.

Feedback to centres

- ◆ SQA past papers in their entirety are not acceptable as further evidence for appeals.
- ◆ Where SQA papers are used to construct a prelim, a judicious selection from at least three papers should be used.
- ◆ Ensure the prelim is marked when submitting as further evidence for appeals.
- ◆ Ensure a marking scheme is submitted.
- ◆ Specimen question papers provided by SQA cannot be used in their entirety as they are in the public domain and are openly available to candidates.

3 Update on support materials

Visits to central marking

This year, for the first time, we invited teachers with little or no experience of marking procedures to visit central marking in Dalkeith.

Groups of 10 teachers attended either in the morning or afternoon of each day of marking, with the visits lasting about three hours. There was an overview of the

central marking process and each teacher received a useful information pack which included:

- ◆ Information on Marker training.
- ◆ Notes on how we go about benchmarking folios prior to marking taking place.
- ◆ Details of how the marking teams are formed and managed.

Teachers were also given the opportunity to undertake a ‘mock’ marking exercise using benchmarked folios to see if their marking aligned with the national standards.

After this, there was a guided tour around the hall to view the folios being marked by the teams. Feedback from attendees was positive and it is anticipated that we will run a similar exercise in 2006.

Local Authorities will be contacted in late spring with a view to nominating delegates to visit next year’s central marking.

Please note, however, places are limited due to space restrictions and tend to be allocated by the Local Authority on a first come, first served basis.

CD-ROMs

Copies of the Intermediate 1 and 2 and Standard Grade CD-ROMs were distributed in May 2005 and show exemplification of practical folio work along with Principal Assessor commentaries.

Exemplification

Standard Grade Critical Activity and Advanced Higher Research and Appreciation exemplification is available on SQA’s website. Contact your SQA Co-ordinator for details.

Also available is exemplification for Intermediate 1 Summary which comes in for external assessment and Intermediate 2 candidate responses to the written paper with Examiner comments.

NQ Design Briefs

We have recently developed a bank of design briefs for use with the Design Activity Units. They contain a lot of useful supporting information and cover the design areas of:

- ◆ jewellery
- ◆ product
- ◆ 2D fabric textile
- ◆ 3D costume
- ◆ interior
- ◆ 2D and 3D graphic
- ◆ architecture

The briefs are not mandatory and may be adapted or customised as required. The pack contains a lot of useful information in terms of developing a focused and well constructed brief.

A copy will be available on the website and a hard copy should now be in centres.

Online marking (Understanding Standards)

SQA have developed a user friendly, interactive website for teachers where you can try your hand at online marking.

When you access SQA's Understanding Standards website, you will be able to view folios of work and written questions at Higher level. You will be asked to apply marks to the evidence and then be able to see the actual marks the evidence received.

There is also helpful advice on marking and in the future there will be guidance on appeals and question paper setting.

The Understanding Standards website is still under development and at the moment only provides full marking guidelines at Higher level. New materials and other levels will be added to the site in the future. Contact your SQA Co-ordinator for details.

Web gallery

During central marking this year, we took a small sample of digital images of practical folio work from Standard Grade through to Higher level. These images can be viewed on the Art and Design subject page of SQA's website, under Subject-specific information, entitled 'Candidate Gallery'.

Please note there are no marks attached to these images, as it is simply a mechanism to showcase candidates' artwork in Scotland. Again, this is an area of the website we are hoping to develop more fully over time.

Travelling exhibition

We have been granted funding to set up a travelling exhibition of 2D and 3D candidate artwork. As yet, the format of the exhibition is under development. We are hoping to run the exhibition in the autumn and further information will be sent to Local Authorities and schools once details are finalised.

4 NQ Art and Design launches

The revised National Courses in Art and Design for Access 3, Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher were launched in Aberdeen, Inverness, Falkirk, Stirling, Glasgow, Ayr and Edinburgh throughout November 2005.

Presentations were made by Jennifer di Folco (Qualifications Update), Veronica Kirk (Support Materials developed by Learning and Teaching Scotland) and May Byrne (SQA Support Materials).

Delegates attending also received an information pack outlining the revised changes for implementation in August 2006. The pack contained:

- ◆ New Course Arrangements.
- ◆ Course assessment specifications and specimen question papers.
- ◆ New NABs.

An exhibition of superb Higher level 2D and 3D artwork was also set up at each of the venues and was well received by the attending delegates.

Details of the new Courses in Art and Design

Below is a brief summary of changes and details of the two components which make up the Course assessment for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher levels.

<p>COMPONENT 1</p> <p>Art and Design: Expressive Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Research sheet (20 marks) — A2 sheet◆ Development sheet (20 marks) — A2 sheet◆ Expressive Outcome (produced under supervised conditions) (40 marks) — A2 sheet <p style="text-align: right;">= Total 80 marks</p> <p>1:1:2 weighting</p> <p>Art and Design: Design Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Research sheet (24 marks) — A2 sheet◆ Development sheet (24 marks) — A2 sheet◆ Design Solution (produced under supervised conditions) (24 marks) — A2 sheet◆ Evaluation (8 marks) <p style="text-align: right;">= Total 80 marks</p> <p>1:1:1 weighting</p>

<p>COMPONENT 2</p> <p>Question paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 — Summary is internally assessed (no external assessment)◆ Intermediate 2 — 1 hour exam (40 marks total)<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Section 1 — Art and Design Studies (questions a + b = 20 marks)— Section 2 — Design Studies (questions a + b = 20 marks)◆ Higher — 1 hour 30 min. exam (60 marks total)<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Section 1 — Art and Design Studies (questions a + b = 30 marks)— Section 2 — Design Studies (questions a + b = 30 marks)

Key points to note:

- ◆ Contemporary — within the last 25 years (mandatory requirement).
- ◆ 3D requirement — no longer mandatory for the Units/Course (unless undertaking 3D brief).
- ◆ Access 3 level is known as a Cluster.
- ◆ No Practical Assignment examination.
- ◆ Higher question paper has been reduced by half an hour as there are fewer questions to answer.
- ◆ No external assessment for Intermediate 1 Summary.
- ◆ Supervised conditions — teacher must be present to authenticate candidates' work. No time limit for producing Outcome/Solution.
- ◆ Intermediate 2 question paper has been reformatted (as Higher) — no question 'C'.
- ◆ Units are Pass/Fail at the end of the Development stage.

- ◆ Final Expressive Outcome/Design Solution along with the editing, selecting and evaluation and the written exam provide added value for the Course.
- ◆ The Art and Design Studies responses produced for Unit assessment may be subject to external moderation.
- ◆ Submission date for Project (Component 1) is the end of April.
- ◆ Component marks will be issued for two Components (see above). We are currently working on the possibility of issuing a ‘split’ mark for the Expressive and Design Activities.