

Autumn 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinator
LEA
Directors of Education
Customer Accounts Managers
All centres

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

Contact: Lesley Clark at Glasgow
Direct line: 0845 213 5490
E-mail: lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications update — Computing, Computing Studies and Information Systems

The contents of this update, which provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Computing, Computing Studies and Information Systems Courses at all levels, should be passed to the members of staff responsible for these subjects.

General issues

Appointees

Examination teams

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2008/09. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing working with them during session 2009/10.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, component of the education system in Scotland. Many teachers carry out the role in order to further their own understanding of the examination process, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Marker for next year's diet of examinations and have at least three year's experience of teaching in the relevant subject and level, please complete an appointee application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return it to am@sqa.org.uk.

Verifiers

We are grateful to the appointees who carry out this role and would encourage others to become involved. Many teachers carry out this role to further their own

understanding of the Courses, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Verifier and have at least three years relevant experience, please complete an appointee application form, which can be downloaded from the appointee management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return to am@sqa.org.uk.

Assessment Panel

The next time the Panel will meet is on 9 November 2009. If you have any issues/questions you would like to bring to the attention of the Panel, please get in touch with us by the end of October 2009.

External and Internal Assessment Reports

These reports will be available from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) by the end of October. I recommend that you take time to read through these reports as they contain useful feedback on diet 2009. This includes information about areas in which candidates performed well, together with advice to centres about areas in which they found difficulties.

Subject-specific information

Computing and Computing Studies e-NABs — Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher

Over the summer months, we have been working to make the full range of Computing and Computing Studies NABs at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher levels available online. We are pleased to say that this work is now complete and we can offer these e-NABs to centres wishing to use online summative assessments with students.

These assessments are being delivered through SQA's e-assessment system — SOLAR (www.solar.org.uk).

If you would like your students to benefit from these e-NABs, please contact the e-assessment team on solar@sqa.org.uk.

Standard Grade Computing Studies

Coursework Tasks and Projects

The Tasks and Projects are unchanged from 2009 and are currently available from our secure website.

Intermediate 1 Computing Studies and Intermediate 2/Higher Computing

Coursework Tasks

Tasks for candidates who will be sitting their examination in 2010 will be available from 31 October 2009. These are the only Tasks that can be used for the 2010 examination.

It should be noted that the Coursework Task forms part of the Course Assessment along with the question paper. Candidates must, therefore, attempt the correct level

of Task in relation to the question paper which they will later sit. The mark for a Higher Coursework Task cannot be combined with the mark for an Intermediate 2 question paper to get a Course award. Candidates will also perform better if they are set a task which is suitable to their abilities.

Intermediate 2 and Higher Information Systems

Coursework Tasks

As with the Computing/Computing Studies Courses, new Coursework Tasks will be issued every year. Tasks for candidates who will be sitting their examination in 2010 will be available from 31 October 2009. These are the only Tasks that can be used for the 2010 examination.

The Tasks will be distributed with archived database and other files which should also be downloaded from our secure website.

The Higher Task includes special instructions on the order in which data files and other materials should be issued to candidates. Please read carefully. It is important that certain materials are only issued after candidates have completed and submitted certain parts of the Task.

Advanced Higher Information Systems

The Coursework Project pack is currently available from our secure website.

The marking grid was updated for session 2007/08 to incorporate changes to mark allocations following feedback from verification. Centres should ensure that they have the updated version. The pack also includes detailed marking instructions to give further guidance to teachers.

An exemplar based on the revised marking guidance is available from our secure website.

Should you require any further information regarding the content of this letter or any other matter relating to Computing, Computing Studies and Information Studies Courses, please contact Dave or myself using the contact details provided.

Lesley Clark Qualifications Manager
lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk 0845 213 5490

Dave Main Qualifications Officer
dave.main@sqa.org.uk 0845 213 5478

Yours sincerely



Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager
Science and Technology