

December 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Schools and FE colleges

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

Contact Name: Graeme Findlay at Glasgow
Direct Line: 0845 213 5492
E-mail: graeme.findlay@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague,

National Qualifications update — Construction

The contents of this update should be passed to members of staff responsible for NQ Construction Courses.

This update provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Construction at all levels. For further clarification on any matter covered in this update please do not hesitate to contact either:

- ◆ Roz Walker (e-mail: rosslynn.walker@sqa.org.uk, telephone: 0845 213 5489)
- ◆ or myself, using the contact details provided above

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager
NQ Construction

Diet 2006

Principal Assessor reports

The Principal Assessor reports are now posted on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). The homepage includes an NQ drop-down menu and Construction is one of the options given on this menu. This link will take you to 'Subject-specific Information', in which you will find the Principal Assessor reports. These reports contain information relevant to the past diet and the grades/cut-offs can be used when estimating for this year's examinations.

Senior Moderator reports

Moderation plays an important part of our yearly procedures. It is in place to ensure that teachers/lecturers are maintaining the standards that have been set. This year's reports can now be viewed on the web under the same sub-heading as the Principal Assessor reports.

NQ Review

The eleven low-uptake Construction Courses have now been removed from the catalogue as of June 2006. The two new Courses, Building Construction and Architectural Technology Higher, are now being offered in centres.

Skills for Work — Construction Craft Skills

Thirteen Skills for Work Courses will be available to **all** centres in 2007/08, following the successful implementation of pilot Courses in 2005/06.

Centres were informed in the June NQ update letter of SQA's plans for Skills for Work Courses. SQA will be issuing information to all centres about these Courses this December. This information will include transition guidance for those centres who have participated in the pilot.

The Skills for Work Course Construction Craft Skills Intermediate 1 is currently undergoing minor revision following feedback from centres during the first year of the pilot. Centres will be fully informed of the nature of these changes in the December information packs.

Construction Craft Skills Intermediate 2 will remain unchanged for 2007/08.

Deliverers' event

A deliverers' event is scheduled for January 2007 and is open to all centres. Centres will be sent the details in due course.

Appeals advice

We have recently updated the *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on evidence requirements* document and this is now available on our website. A hard-copy is being issued to every centre. In particular, the document clarifies subject-specific requirement as well as guidance on the general principles for generating Estimates and submitting Appeals.

When generating Estimates and compiling evidence for Absentee consideration and Appeals, you should also refer to:

- ◆ Course Arrangements documents, which include Course Grade descriptions
- ◆ Course Assessment specifications
- ◆ SQA question papers, including specimen question papers
- ◆ SQA marking instructions
- ◆ Principal Assessor reports, which include information on Grade boundaries
- ◆ exemplification materials
- ◆ any other relevant information (eg Course reports, subject update letters)

These materials, and more, are also available on the subject pages of our website (www.sqa.org.uk).