

10 October 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
EA Special Schools
Independent Secondary Schools
Higher Education Institutions

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

Contact Name: Alan Wilson
Direct Line: 0845 213 5519
E-mail: alan.wilson@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update — English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)

Please pass the contents of this letter to the person responsible for ESOL.

1. NQ Courses

Courses at Intermediate 2 and Higher in ESOL are now available and certification will take place in August 2007. The specimen question papers for each are available to download from the ESOL section of SQA's website and the accompanying CD for the Listening part of the paper has been sent to all centres. The NAB assessments are on the secure area of our website and the CDs for the Listening assessments for these are also available to order. Copies were sent to all centres which had candidates for Units at these levels in 2005/06.

2. Markers

When candidates sit the new examinations in 2007, SQA will need to have markers in place. We would therefore like to invite as many of you as possible who feel willing to take up the challenge to apply to be markers. If you wish to do this, please choose NQ Markers from the 'Choose a Section' menu of SQA's website to download an application form. Alternatively, please contact the Marker Support Team on 0131-271 6759 to request an application form.

3. Assessment Panel

A new Assessment Panel has been set up for ESOL and has met for the first time. The Panel will be responsible for advising on all issues concerning ESOL Assessment and will receive Principal Assessor reports for comment after each diet of examinations.

On their advice, the timings of Listening examination components will be changed. The aggregate times of the specimen question papers actually overrun the 30 minutes allocated for Listening, and the times between playings have been adjusted in order to meet the maximum time of 30 minutes.

4. Examination at Intermediate 2 and Higher

The format of the examinations in Intermediate 2 and Higher will make it necessary to advise students about time management. Operational question papers will have recommendations about how long to spend on each part, to help candidates finish without running out of time. Teachers/Lecturers should stress this advice prior to the exam and any prelim they may devise.

5. Unit revisions

Revisions of Units at Access 2, Access 3 and Intermediate 1 are being taken forward at the moment. The current Units at these levels are still available and they will not be replaced by new Units with new NAB materials until next session. You will be kept abreast of developments through update letters, SQA's e-zine and website announcements.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Performing Arts, Language, Maths and Science