

31 October 2007

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications update — English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for ESOL.

I was recently appointed to the seconded post of ESOL Development Manager with SQA and am pleased to be able to update colleagues delivering and assessing the NQs in ESOL.

#### **Changes to ESOL examination question papers, 2008 onwards**

At both Intermediate 2 and Higher levels the examination question paper rubric has been revised by the examination team as part of the continuing review of materials. Please note, for Section C — Writing, Part 1, the rubric will now read:

#### **Recommended time: 10 minutes**

*Read the following text. Look carefully at each line. In each line of the text there is either **one** extra word or **one** missing word. Write the extra or missing word in the spaces 1-10. The task begins with two examples (a) and (b).*

#### **Learning Support Materials**

Learning Support Materials for all Units at Intermediate 1 and Access 3 levels are now available on the secure area of SQA's website, along with the existing support materials at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels; access to this site and materials can be arranged by your centre's SQA Co-ordinator.

All the materials except for those at Intermediate 1 level are available on both PDF and Word formats, the latter to support teachers and lecturers in adapting the materials for their own learning and teaching context, where appropriate. The files for the Intermediate 1 Units are currently in the process of being transferred to Word documents: as large Word files they are inherently unstable, having already caused a few 'crashes' in production, so technicians are working to reduce and subdivide the files. These will be uploaded as soon as possible.

**E-learning materials**

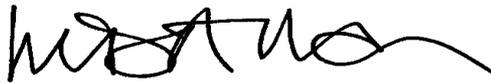
The e-learning materials are currently undergoing their final edit with the production company; once ready, a CD will be sent to all centres that have previously offered any of the ESOL qualifications or on request from the SQA Customer Contact Centre.

**Exemplar candidate evidence**

Exemplar candidate evidence, both from NABs and Course Assessment at Intermediate 2 and Higher, and from NABs at lower levels is currently being produced; this will assist both Assessors and Internal Verifiers in the standardisation process and to assess, accurately, their own candidates' assessments; when complete this will be put on the secure area of SQA's website as a support for colleagues delivering the NQs in ESOL.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Allan  
ESOL Development Manager