

Our ref: GF/HE&HOSP

June 2007

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Schools and FE colleges

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

Contact Name: Graeme Findlay at Glasgow
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Dear Colleague,

National Qualifications update — Home Economics & Hospitality

The contents of this letter should be passed to members of staff responsible for the subjects of Home Economics and Hospitality.

Lesley Clark, Qualifications Officer — Home Economics

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Qualifications Officer for Home Economics, Lesley Clark. Lesley has been with us since January and brings with her a wealth of experience in teaching, learning and assessment, having spent over 20 years in education prior to taking up her post. Lesley's contact details can be found at the end of this update.

General issues

Assessment Panel

The next time the Panel meet is in November 2007. If you have any questions for the Panel, please get in touch with us by the end of October 2007.

British Nutrition Foundation (BNF)

The BNF are holding mini conferences again this year and the dates are:

Inverness	7 September 2007
Aberdeen	8 September 2007
Glasgow	14 September 2007
Edinburgh	15 September 2007

Following the positive feedback received from last year's events, we are very pleased to have been asked to be involved again this year. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting with colleagues from across the country, providing an update on the work we are currently carrying out and receiving feedback from delegates.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, part of the education system in Scotland and we would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties this year. We always welcome applications from those that have not marked before. Many people undertake the role 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 Home Economics or Hospitality National Qualifications, and have three years' experience of teaching in the subject areas, please contact our Markers Helpline on 0131-561 6825, or e-mail: **markers@sqa.org.uk**.

National Courses at Access 3

The term *National Cluster* has been used since the inception of the Higher Still Development Programme to refer to subject-specific groupings of Units at Access 3 level (made up of 3 Unit credits) which provide articulation with Courses at Intermediate 1 level and above.

The term *Cluster* was discussed as part of a consultation carried out in 2004 during the review of our Qualification Portfolio and one of the conclusions of that review was that we should change the title of *National Clusters* to *National Courses* to bring them in line with other qualifications in our portfolio. As a result, from 1 January 2007 we replaced the title *National Cluster* with *National Course* and this title will be used in all new publications and on the new Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC).

National Qualifications for the future

As part of the Scottish Executive's *Curriculum for Excellence* programme, Ministers intend to undertake a formal consultation around summer this year on qualifications at SCQF levels 4 and 5 (Standard Grade at General and Credit level and Intermediate 1 and 2) and on how best to give greater formal recognition to learners' wider achievements. The Scottish Executive has set up the Assessment and Qualifications Task Group (AQTG) involving SQA, LTS and others to help develop the options for consultation. The outcome of this consultation will help to shape our National Qualifications for the future.

Ministers intend to retain Access, Higher and Advanced Higher as points of stability within the system. These qualifications will have to adapt over time to reflect *A Curriculum for Excellence* but this will be built into the normal procedures for updating and refreshing National Qualifications. The main focus of work is on addressing the use of Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications (SCQF 4 and 5) in providing a unified structure that reflects *A Curriculum for Excellence*.

We are currently leading a programme of pre-consultation engagement activity on the review of qualifications at SCQF levels 4 and 5.

For more information relating to our work on *National Qualifications for the Future* and our work in relation to the *Curriculum for Excellence* programme, you can contact Lena Gray, SQA's Business Manager for *A Curriculum for Excellence*, by e-mail at: **lena.gray@sqa.org.uk**.

Support to centres

The publication of the updated guidance on Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals (EAAs) for the 2007 diet was supplemented by a series of seminars held in January/February 2007. All presentations and workshop materials developed for the events have been posted on the events section of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/events). We are looking at how, in light of this updated guidance on EAAs, we can improve feedback to centres on unsuccessful appeals. We are also developing an interactive electronic version of the guide.

Withdrawal of derived grades

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we have withdrawn the statistically based derived grades procedure. The appeals process will operate as normal.

Further subject-specific information is contained in the following Appendices:

Appendix 1 — Home Economics

Appendix 2 — Hospitality

Should you require any further information regarding the content of this letter, or any other matter relating to Home Economics or Hospitality subjects, Lesley, Roz or myself can be contacted using the details listed below:

Graeme Findlay — Qualifications Manager, Home Economics and Hospitality
0845 213 5492 or graeme.findlay@sqa.org.uk

Lesley Clark — Qualifications Officer, Home Economics
0845 213 5490 or lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk

Roz Walker — Qualifications Officer, Hospitality
0845 213 5489 or rosslynn.walker@sqa.org.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and very well deserved holiday.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager
NQ Home Economics & Hospitality

Appendix 1 — Home Economics

Distribution of Intermediate 1 Practical Assignment and Intermediate 2 and Higher Technological Project briefs

The 2008 Practical Assignment and Technological Project briefs, which are now available on the Home Economics page of SQA's website, were made available as usual at the end of May this year. However, from next year's briefs onwards, they will be made available from September each year. This brings our subject in line with others regarding distribution dates.

Standard Grade

From session 2007/2008, centres selected for visiting verification will be verified on Course Objectives 5, 6 **and** the Practical Assignment (Course Objective 7). This will ensure that standardisation is being applied across all areas of assessment.

Access 3

New National Course and Units for 2008/09

Developments are continuing and the new Course and Units will be available to be delivered from June 2008.

Intermediate 2 and Higher

The Professional Development Workshop held in January was very successful. Thanks go to the Principal Assessors and Senior Examiner for their valued input.

Appendix 2 — Hospitality

Creative Cake Production

We will be holding a Quality Network in November; details will be available soon on our website (www.sqa.org.uk).

Implementation of policy on low uptake National Courses

SQA's low uptake policy was endorsed by the National Qualifications Steering Group (NQSG) in October 2003. This policy states that 'existing National Courses will have a minimum life of five years. Courses at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher which have failed to attract 100 candidates a year after five years and 50 candidates a year at Advanced Higher will be reviewed to determine whether they continue to be offered'. However, since the policy was agreed, the environment has changed significantly because of the publication of *A Curriculum for Excellence* and developments in our portfolio review. The full impact of these two development programmes is not yet clear, and may affect decisions about which Courses continue to be offered. Therefore, this year we have only considered whether Courses with zero or very low uptake will continue to be offered. As a result of these considerations, we have decided that, of the Courses in these categories:

- ◆ some will be removed from the NQ Catalogue after diet 2007. The Units making up these Courses will be retained in the catalogue
- ◆ some will be removed from the NQ Catalogue after diet 2008. The Units making up these Courses will be retained in the catalogue
- ◆ some will be retained in the NQ Catalogue, but will be reconsidered in line with the policy at a later date if they remain in the very low uptake category

Details of decisions are shown in the table below. If the withdrawal of any of these Courses will cause your centre any difficulties, please contact Linda Murray, Project Manager, at linda.murray@sqa.org.uk, as soon as possible, outlining your concerns.

National Courses with very low uptake to be removed from the NQ Catalogue after diet 2008 (last examination diet 2008)

Course	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hospitality — Reception and Accommodation Operations (Intermediate 2)	7	11	0	0	7
Food Production Supervision (Higher)	3	1	4	8	2
Hospitality — Food and Drink Service (Higher)	3	10	7	2	3

Note: The Units making up the above Courses will be retained in the NQ Catalogue

National Certificate development

Following consultation with centres, a 12 credit National Certificate Group Award in Hospitality at SCQF levels 4 and 5 is currently being developed. New Units are being written and the Group Award will be ready for delivery in August 2008.

As part of this development and in line with the policy mentioned above, we have identified a number of Units with no or very low uptake over the last five years. We are withdrawing the following Units from the catalogue; if this will cause your centre any difficulties please contact Roz Walker.

Unit Title	Unit Code
Accommodation and Facilities Servicing (5140006)	EF07 04
Catering Equipment (5130006)	EF0B 12
Cocktails (5130146)	D0T5 11
Dairy Foods and Eggs (5130046)	D0SY 11
Dietary Advice: Applications for the Community (96064)	E9A6 12
Dry Food Ingredients and Flavourings (97426)	E9DG 11
Fats and Oils (97425)	E9DF 11
Food Production Operations (97609)	D0N9 13
Food Service 4 (63205)	E7R4 12
Food Service Unit Operations (63210)	D0JC 13
Pests (67108)	E87V 11
Product Knowledge: Dairy Produce (5120297)	EF9T 11
Product Knowledge: Delicatessen (5120307)	EF9W 11
Product Knowledge: Fruit and Vegetables (5120327)	EF9V 11
Product Knowledge: Meat (5120347)	EF9S 11
Product Knowledge: Seafood (5120357)	EF9X 11
Product Knowledge: Wine (5120367)	EF9Y 11
Provision of Linen Supply (5140126)	D0TX 11
Taste of Europe (7250580)	EA3C 11

Practical Cookery

A Professional Development Workshop will take place on 2 February 2008 involving both Intermediate 1 and 2 levels. Detailed information and application forms for the event can be found on SQA's website.

Skills for Work in Hospitality

The *Hospitality — Skills for Work Intermediate 1* Course was launched in April and will be available from 2007/08 onwards. Course and Unit specifications are now available on the Skills for Work page of our website

(www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork) and the National Assessment Bank materials are in the secure area of our website, access being via your SQA Co-ordinator.

Work is about to begin on the development of a *Hospitality — Skills for Work Intermediate 2* Course which will be available for delivery from August 2008.