

December 2003

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Directors of Education
Environment Panel Members
Customer Accounts Managers

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of
National Qualifications in Managing Environmental Resources**

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update — Managing Environmental Resources

This letter is intended to provide centres with an update on National Qualifications and should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Managing Environmental Resources.

1 Principal Assessor Reports for 2003

Principal Assessor Reports for all NQ Courses in Managing Environmental Resources are available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

The Principal Assessor Reports include details of statistical information on entries; grade boundaries at C, B and A; comments on candidate performance including areas where candidates performed well in the external assessment, where candidates had difficulty with the external assessment and areas of common misunderstanding.

2 Revised Arrangements Documents

Centres should ensure that they are working with the latest versions of the Arrangements documents. Hard copies of each revised Arrangements document were sent to SQA Co-ordinators. Copies can also be downloaded from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). Latest versions are as follows:

- ◆ Access 2 MER (4th Edition), November 2002
- ◆ Access 3 MER (2nd Edition), November 1999
- ◆ Intermediate 1 MER (5th Edition), July 2002
- ◆ Intermediate 2 MER (5th Edition), July 2002
- ◆ Higher MER (5th Edition), July 2002
- ◆ Advanced Higher MER (3rd Edition), July 2002

3 Investigations in Course Assessment

Centres are reminded that following the NQ review of the subject, it was agreed to reduce the number of assessments at Outcome 3. Advice on this was previously outlined in the update letter dated 8 July 2002. This is the practical Outcome in all Science subjects, and in MER, in all cases it takes the form of an Investigation.

At all levels, only one investigation per Course is now required. At Intermediate 1 and at Higher, this investigation can be undertaken from any of the three Units which make up the Course.

At Intermediate 2, if a Unit is being studied as part of the Intermediate 2 Managing Environmental Resources Course then Outcome 3 must be based on the Local Environment Unit. This piece of evidence can be used for Outcome 3 in all Units of the Course unless a Unit is being studied independently in which case an investigation appropriate to that Unit must be produced.

At Advanced Higher, candidates are only required to produce one report for Outcome 3 from either D317 13 *The Environment and Human Activity* or D319 13 *Managing the Natural Heritage*.

A summary of internal assessment requirements for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher MER Courses is attached in Appendix A.

4 NABs

SQA has recently posted all NAB materials online. You should contact your centre's SQA Co-ordinator for details of how to open this secure area of SQA's website.

Any comments/errors relating to the existing NABs should be forwarded to Mary Hoey.

5 Change in SQA Subject Area responsibility

SQA's Qualifications Units have recently been reorganised into two distinct areas — one for National Qualifications and the other for Vocational Qualifications. NQ Managing Environmental Resources Courses fall within the remit of the NQ Mathematics and Science team within the National Qualifications Units.

Eleanor Pearson, the Qualifications Manager who was responsible for Managing Environmental Resources NQ Courses will be taking early retirement. Hamish Brad, the Qualifications Officer who worked with Eleanor, has moved to work in an HN/SVQ team carrying on with his remit for land-based related subjects.

Mary Hoey (Qualifications Manager) and Tracey Hope (Qualifications Officer) are now responsible for NQ Managing Environmental Resources and can be contacted as follows:

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 Direct Line: 0141-242 2329

Tracey Hope E-mail: tracey.hope@sqa.org.uk
 Direct Line: 0141-242 2148

I hope the contents of this letter are helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Hoey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and a long, sweeping 'y'.

Mary Hoey
Qualifications Manager
NQ Maths and Science Team

Encs:

Appendix A — Summary of Internal Assessment Requirements (Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher)

Appendix B — Summary of Valid Versions of NABs

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Internal Assessment Requirements — Intermediate 1

Level	Unit	Code	Outcomes 1 and 2	Outcome 3
Int 1	Environmental Issues: An Introduction	D309 10	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 20 marks (45 minutes duration). Pass mark 12/20.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D310 10 and D311 10 if studied as part of the Int 1 MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.
Int 1	Ecosystems	D310 10	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 20 marks (45 minutes duration). Pass mark 12/20.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D309 10 and D311 10 if studied as part of the Int 1 MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.
Int 1	Land Use	D311 10	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 20 marks (45 minutes duration). Pass mark 12/20.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D309 10 and D310 10 if studied as part of the Int 1 MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Internal Assessment Requirements — Intermediate 2

Level	Unit	Code	Outcomes 1 and 2	Outcome 3
Int 2	Natural Resource Use	D312 11	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 30 marks (45–60 minutes duration). Pass mark 20/30.	Report of a practical investigation. If studied as part of the Int 2 MER Course then Outcome 3 must be based on D314 11 Local Environment. This piece of evidence can be used for Outcome 3 in all Units of the Course unless a Unit is being studied independently in which case an investigation appropriate to that Unit must be produced. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.
Int 2	Local Environment	D314 11	Report of a practical investigation. If this Unit is being studied as part of the Int 2 MER Course, the investigation report for Outcome 3 must be based on this Unit. No specific time constraints. Not less than 75% of the time allocated to the Unit should be devoted to the investigation and the production of the report. The report must be the individual work of the candidate compiled under open book conditions. Source materials required for authentication.	
Int 2	Ecosystems	D310 11	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 30 marks (45–60 minutes duration). Pass mark 20/30.	Report of a practical investigation. If studied as part of the Int 2 MER Course then Outcome 3 must be based on D314 11 Local Environment. This piece of evidence can be used for Outcome 3 in all Units of the Course unless a Unit is being studied independently in which case an investigation appropriate to that Unit must be produced. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Internal Assessment Requirements — Higher

Level	Unit	Code	Outcomes 1 and 2	Outcome 3
Higher	Natural Resource Use	D312 12	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 40 marks (45–60 minutes duration). Pass mark 26/40.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D315 12 and D316 12 if studied as part of the Higher MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.
Higher	Investigating Ecosystems	D315 12	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 40 marks (45–60 minutes duration). Pass mark 26/40.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D312 12 and D316 12 if studied as part of the Higher MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.
Higher	Land Use in Scotland	D316 12	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 40 marks (45–60 minutes duration). Pass mark 26/40.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Units D312 12 and D315 12 if studied as part of the Higher MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate.

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Internal Assessment Requirements — Advanced Higher

Level	Unit	Code	Outcomes 1 and 2	Outcome 3
AH	The Environment and Human Activity	D317 13	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 45 marks (45 minutes duration). Pass mark 30/45.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Unit D319 13 if studied as part of the Advanced Higher MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate. Source materials required for authentication.
AH	Managing Environmental Resources: Policy and Practice	D318 13	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 30 marks (30 minutes duration). Pass mark 20/30.	No Outcome 3 in this Unit.
AH	Managing the Natural Heritage	D319 13	Closed book test comprising a number of structured questions worth a total of 30 marks (30 minutes duration). Pass mark 20/30.	Report of a practical investigation. The report on this Unit can be transferred and used for Unit D317 13 if studied as part of the Advanced Higher MER Course. The report must be the individual work of the candidate. Source materials required for authentication.
AH	Environmental Investigation	D320 13	Report of a practical investigation. Twenty minutes of notional teaching time is allocated for this 0.5 credit Unit. No specific time constraints apply to the environmental investigation. The report must be the individual work of the candidate under open book conditions. Source materials required for authentication. Candidates also need to complete and submit (to lecturer/ teacher) an initial project protocol including an initial time management plan for the investigation.	No Outcome 3 in this Unit.

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Valid Versions of NABs (page 1 of 2)

Level	Unit	Code	Valid Version Issue Dates				
			NAB 001	NAB 002	NAB 003	NAB 004	NAB 005
Access 2	Planning an Environmental Area	D553 08	Sep 99	X	X	X	X
Access 2	Developing an Environmental Area	D554 08	Sep 99	X	X	X	X
Access 2	Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area	D555 08	Sep 99	X	X	X	X
Access 3	Planning an Environmental Area	D553 09	Jan 03	X	X	X	X
Access 3	Developing an Environmental Area	D554 09	Jan 03	X	X	X	X
Access 3	Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area	D555 09	Jan 03	X	X	X	X
Int 1	Environmental Issues: An Introduction	D309 10	April 03	June 03	April 03	April 03	X
Int 1	Ecosystems	D310 10	May 03	May 03	May 03	May 03	X
Int 1	Land Use	D311 10	June 03	June 03	June 03	June 03	X
Int 2	Natural Resource Use	D312 11	May 03	Nov 03	Nov 03	Nov 03	X
Int 2	Local Environment	D314 11	July 03	Nov 00	March 01	X	X

Managing Environmental Resources
Summary of Valid Versions of NABs (page 2 of 2)

Level	Unit	Code	Valid Version Issue Dates				
			NAB 001	NAB 002	NAB 003	NAB 004	NAB 005
Int 2	Ecosystems	D310 11	June 03	Nov 03	Nov 03	Nov 03	X
Higher	Natural Resource Use	D312 12	May 03	May 03	May 03	X	X
Higher	Investigating Ecosystems	D315 12	May 03	May 03	May 03	May 03	In progress
Higher	Land Use in Scotland	D316 12	May 03	June 03	June 03	In progress	X
AH	The Environment and Human Activity	D317 13	June 03	June 03	X	X	X
AH	Managing Environmental Resources: Policy and Practice	D318 13	Jan 03	Jan 03	X	X	X
AH	Managing the Natural Heritage	D319 13	Jan 03	Jan 03	Jan 03	X	X
AH	Environmental Investigation	D320 13	May 03	X	X	X	X

X indicates no further packs planned

NB D310 11 *Ecosystems* replaced D313 11 *Ecological Principles* (following NQ Review)