

6 May 2007

To: SQA Co-ordinator (secondary schools,  
special schools and further education colleges)  
Scottish Executive  
HMIE  
Directors of Education  
Mathematics Assessment Panel members  
Higher Education Institutions — Department of Education

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of  
National Qualifications in Mathematics**

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

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Dear Colleague

**National Qualifications update — Mathematics**

This letter provides an update on National Qualifications and should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Mathematics.

**1. Changes to Higher Mathematics question papers, effective diet 2008**

Following on from the previous Mathematics update letter of 6 December 2006, the recommendations arising from the NQ Review for Mathematics have been approved by SQA's Validation Panel and subsequently by SQA's Qualifications Committee. Therefore the new format Higher Mathematics question papers will be introduced in diet 2008, as planned.

To recap, the changes will be as follows:

Paper 1 (non-calculator) will consist of two sections:

- ◆ **Section A** will contain 20 objective test questions and have an allocation of 40 marks.
- ◆ **Section B** will contain a balance of short questions, designed to test knowledge and understanding, and extended response questions, which also test problem solving skills, and have an allocation of 30 marks.

The time allocation for paper 1 will increase from 70 minutes to 90 minutes.

Paper 2 (calculator) will contain a balance of short questions, designed to test knowledge and understanding, and extended response questions, which also test problem solving skills, and have an allocation of 60 marks.

The time allocation for paper 2 will decrease from 90 minutes to 70 minutes.

The proposed introduction of objective testing will require **no change** to the Course content at Higher level, and there will be **no change** to NABs.

The total time for the examination will remain unchanged (two hours and 40 minutes with a 20 minute break between papers) as will the total mark allocation (130 marks).

Please note that there will be **no change** to the format of the Mathematics examination paper at Higher level for **diet 2007**.

As detailed in the preceding update letter, it is acknowledged that centres will require support to prepare candidates for the introduction of objective testing into the Higher Mathematics examination. Accordingly, a specimen question paper has been produced and will be available on SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) after the 2007 examination in May. As well as this, an item bank of objective test questions will be placed on the secure area of SQA's website. This will contain two questions for each part of the content syllabus that is objective test appropriate and is intended to aid the creation of prelim examinations. Again, this will be available after the 2007 diet examination. In addition, a candidate booklet will be distributed, providing support and advice to candidates. The booklet will also contain twenty objective test questions that can be used for practice.

In consolidation of these measures, there will be five launch events taking place from the end of May to early June at various locations:

23 May 2007	Inverness
25 May 2007	Peebles
28 May 2007	Edinburgh
7 June 2007	Glasgow
12 June 2007	Perth

Letters have been disseminated to centres in the last week, illustrating the event structure and content, as well as detailing the enrolment process.

## **2. Removal of Mathematics Courses from the National Qualifications Catalogue, effective August 2007**

As the prior update letter outlined, it had been proposed that the following two Courses: **C 102 12 Mathematics: Maths 1, 2 and Stats** and **C 203 13 Applied Mathematics: Numerical Analysis**, are removed from the National Qualifications Catalogue in August of next year. This has now been approved by SQA's Qualifications Committee, with the support of the Mathematics and Statistics Assessment Panel and the Subject Advisory Group. Therefore, both these Courses will be unavailable in diet 2008.

It should be noted that the Unit D325 12 *Statistics* would remain on the catalogue as a free standing Unit, as well as the Units D328 13 *Numerical Analysis 1* and D329 13 *Numerical Analysis 2*.

I hope you find this information useful. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Boyle  
Qualifications Officer  
Performing Arts, Language, Mathematics and Science  
National Qualifications Directorate