

15 January 2007

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 at Glasgow  
Direct Line: 0845 213 5519  
E-mail: alan.wilson@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications update — Media Studies**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for NQ Media Studies.

We wish to draw the following to your attention:

#### **1. Specimen question papers and assessment packs for Intermediate 1 and 2**

The Course assessment packs have been revised by the examination team as part of the continuing review of materials. The advice and suggestions which were originally in the pack were speculative, in that areas like Unseen Analysis questions were new and unfamiliar at Intermediate levels. It is now possible to update that information with examples of what have proved to be successful questions in the recent diets of examinations. The specimen question paper at Intermediate 1 has not been replaced, and contains largely superseded, high-value questions. Looking at an Intermediate 1 paper from 2005 or 2006 will provide a better model.

#### **2. Changes to Arrangements for Unseen Analysis at Intermediate 2**

In addition to the improved questions and suggestions referred to in 1 above, it will no longer be necessary to allocate marks to Unseen Analysis questions at Intermediate 2. If you choose from the suggested questions those which will allow your candidates to write well about Categories and Language, you no longer have to suggest marks values for each question. The markers will assess the answers holistically. This will, at this level, prevent candidates being deprived of marks, as explained in the revised document. Please note that Unseen Analysis remains unchanged at both Higher and Intermediate 1 levels

### 3. **Understanding Standards**

Scripts from the 2006 examination in Higher Media Studies will shortly be placed on the Understanding Standards website ([www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk)). Your centre has a user name and password for this site. There are commentaries explaining the reasons for the marks allocated to each, and in particular you should note the Production answers which are often poorly done in the examination by candidates sitting at all three levels.

### 4. **Website updates**

In addition to the above, Principal Assessor reports and marking instructions for all 2006 question papers are available on the NQ Media Studies page of SQA's website.

Yours faithfully,



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