

10 October 2006

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

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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. Auto-approval

From this current session Media Studies will be auto-approved for all NQ presenting centres. This means that you are now able to enter candidates for all NQ Media Studies Units and Courses without having to seek approval.

2. Principal Assessor reports

Reports for all levels of NQ will be available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) in the near future. They will be very useful in planning your teaching.

3. Marking instructions

These will be available shortly from the same source and will help with estimates and the marking of any prelim exams

4. Revised Advanced Higher Course

The Arrangements for the Advanced Higher Course are on our website and NAB materials can be downloaded by your SQA Co-ordinator from the secure area of our website. You are reminded that a study of NABs for each level may be helpful to you

as the exemplar material in, say, analysis covers different texts and text types and may be useful to you even though it is not at the level at which you are presenting.

5. Examination timings

The examining team became aware this year that many candidates were failing to divide their time between the two parts of the paper in Intermediate 2 and Higher examinations. As a result, candidates spent too much time on Analysis and did not complete or give adequate attention to the equally valuable Production question chosen. You are advised to make candidates aware of this before your prelim and before the next diet of examinations.

6. Suitability of film texts

The work of many candidates was less successful in the examinations this year because a film text was used which was clearly too adult and mature in its concepts for them to fully understand. They would, in the opinion of the examiners, have been more successful had the film text been chosen with more regard to their age and an appropriate film classification.

Yours sincerely,



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