

2 November 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinator  
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

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 on to the members of staff responsible for National Qualifications Media Studies.

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention:

#### **1. PA reports on website**

Principal Assessor reports for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher will shortly be placed on the Media Studies subject page of SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)). They offer advice based on the first diet of the post-Review Arrangements.

Your attention is drawn in particular to the request that any DVD based materials for Unseen Analysis texts should be copied to video due to the incompatibility of some hardware.

Centres should also note that in Analysis Units (both Fiction and Non-fiction) candidates are required to cover at least three of the key aspects of Media Studies in a Unit. Centres should ensure that where candidates are doing the Unit as part of a Course, that all six key aspects are covered across the two Units. There was some evidence that this had not always been the case in the 2005 examination diet.

Many candidates would benefit from an improved knowledge of technical media terminology. In this connection a useful resource is the glossary available to download from the SFEU site ([www.sfeu.ac.uk](http://www.sfeu.ac.uk)). There are glossaries for each level from Intermediate 1 to Higher and other useful material.

#### **2. Marking Instructions**

All finalised Marking Instructions for 2005 exams are available from the subject page of SQA's website and offer an insight into standards required, which should be helpful to teachers and lecturers when assessing the work of their candidates for estimate purposes.

**3. Expanded advice on Unseen Analysis at Higher CAS**

At Higher, the Course Assessment Specification has been amended to clarify certain points and expand on advice given about Unseen Analysis.

**4. Access 3**

Access 3 Units have been available from August 2005 and are in line with the structure of the levels above.

**5. Advanced Higher**

The Advance Higher Course has been through a review and will undergo Operational Validation in December 2005. Further updates will follow.

**6. Professional Development Workshop**

For those teaching Intermediate 1 and 2 there is a Professional Development Workshop for Media Studies in Glasgow on Saturday 4 February 2006. Details of how to book are on the Professional Development Workshop section SQA's website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan R Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alan R Wilson  
Qualifications Manager

Encs