

9 October 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
EA Special Schools
Independent Secondary
Higher Educational Institutions

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

Contact Name: Jim McDonald/Alan Wilson
Direct Line: 0845 213 5515/5517
E-mail: jim.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk
E-mail: alan.wilson@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update

The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Modern Languages.

Modern Languages Update

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention:

1. Revision of NQ *Language in Work Units*: Clarification

Revised Unit specifications and NAB assessments are available from the secure area of SQA's website only. It is important to note that information relating to Unit specifications via the 'NQ Search' facility on SQA's website is **not** valid, and pertains to the previous, now obsolete, specifications which were published in June 2002.

Please note also that the revision of Unit specifications and NAB assessments apply to Intermediate 1 & 2, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. **Access 3 *Language in Work Unit* is not included in the revision.**

2. Advanced Higher Folio

Following discussion with the Principal Assessors for Advanced Higher and the Modern Languages Assessment Panel, it has been decided that the word limits for Folio pieces should be increased. Please note, therefore, the following:

- ◆ For *Extended Reading and Viewing*, the word limit has been increased from 500 words to **750** words for each essay.
- ◆ For *Language in Work*, the word limit has been increased from 1000 to **1500** words for the report.

These increased word limits come into effect **as of Diet 2007**. Centres should note that a penalty of three individual marks will continue to be exacted where the word limit for the essay/report has been exceeded by 100 words or more. As previously, for candidates who have chosen the *Extended Reading & Viewing* Unit, reasonable quotation from the text will not be included in the word limit.

3. Information on the conduct of NQ External Examinations in Listening, 2007 onwards

Please note that 'dead air' will be included on the recording of the above examinations, in order to ensure that candidates have adequate time to read questions before hearing the recording. The changes are as follows:

- ◆ At **Intermediate 2**, candidates will have one minute of 'dead air' before hearing questions 1, 2 and 3.
- ◆ At **Higher**, candidates will have two minutes of 'dead air' to look over the questions before hearing the dialogue for the first time.
- ◆ At **Advanced Higher**, candidates will have two minutes of 'dead air' to look over the questions for Part I and Part II.

Please note that subsequent gaps between playings, etc will remain unaltered.

Yours faithfully,



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager



Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager