

19 December 2005

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

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications Update**

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

### **Modern Languages Update**

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention.

#### **1 Exemplification of Writing, Intermediate 1**

Exemplification based on the Extended Pegged Mark Descriptors issued with the December 2004 Update is now available on SQA's secure website — to access these files, speak to the SQA Co-ordinator in your centre.

Candidate scripts are drawn from the 2005 diet. Exemplification is provided for French, German, Italian and Spanish performances at this level. Exemplification of Writing at Intermediate 2 and of both Writing tasks at Higher will be posted on SQA's secure website by autumn 2006.

Please also note that in diet 2006, candidates will be provided with four lines on which to write their answers, under each of the headings.

#### **2 Standard Grade and NQ Listening examinations, 2006 and onwards**

You are reminded that Listening examinations will be provided on **CD only** from 2006. Centres should ensure provision of appropriate equipment for this purpose. A sample CD is available on request (deborah.farmer@sqa.org.uk) if you need to ensure compatibility.

### 3 Appeals: General Issues at NQ Levels

When submitting evidence for Appeals, it is important that centres submit total marks, broken down by element/papers. The assessment should be submitted in its entirety, even where a candidate has not performed well in an element. The volume of evidence submitted should be persuasive.

### 4 Appeals : Advanced Higher

Centres should now take advantage of component marks to better judge whether an Appeal will be successful. Similarly, centres are strongly advised to take an estimate of performance in Speaking and Folio into account when estimating overall candidate performance.

### 5 Appeals: Standard Grade Folio of Writing

**In order to action an Appeal for this element, centres must provide additional evidence.** Evidence might take the form of drafts undertaken by the candidate or additional pieces not previously submitted. **It is not sufficient for centres simply to request that the three Folio pieces already submitted be reviewed. Amendment to Page 6 of Exemplification document attached.**

### 6 Revision of NQ Language in Work Units

In 2006, revised NAB **Support Materials** will be available on SQA's secure website at Intermediate 1, 2, Higher and Advanced Higher. These materials will be for use from session 2006/7.

### 7 Advanced Higher

Please note the following issues relating to the delivery of Advanced Higher courses:

- ◆ A text(s) studied for the *Extended Reading and Viewing* optional unit and the subsequent Folio may be enhanced by the viewing of a film/documentary etc. A film **on its own**, however, is not sufficient. A candidate may refer to a film, but only in conjunction with a related text.
- ◆ Again, in the *Extended Reading and Viewing* optional unit and the Folio, it must be clear that the candidate has read text(s) in the target language and, when using quotes, does so in the target language. If this is not the case, a Folio piece will be awarded no marks. Similarly, candidates should be made aware of the risks associated with plagiarism. Folio pieces must always be the candidate's own work.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that Exemplification **of the Folio of Writing at Advanced Higher** was issued in **March 2004**, and can be located on SQA's secure website.

- ◆ From 2006 onwards, Paper 2, Section I (Listening) will be worth **30 marks** and Section II (Discursive Writing) will be worth **40 marks**. For section II, the pegged mark criteria will remain unchanged, but the associated pegged marks will now be:

40 — Very Good  
32 — Good  
24 — Satisfactory  
16 — Unsatisfactory  
8 — Poor  
0 — Very Poor

Yours faithfully,



Jim McDonald  
Qualifications Manager



Alan Wilson  
Qualifications manager