

Our ref: GS/PSE/UL/1103

13 June 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Education Authorities
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update – Personal & Social Education

This briefing note is intended to offer practical advice and support on the issues linked to Personal & Social Education and should be distributed to those staff responsible for this area.

1 National Qualifications review

Work on this review is continuing and more detailed information about the outcomes, together with implementation dates, will be communicated to you shortly.

2 Other development work

During session 2005/06 a number of developments have taken place and these are described below.

2.1 Work Experience page on SQA's website

SQA has introduced a 'Work Experience' page on its website. This can be accessed by selecting the appropriate option from the 'NQ / Standard Grade' drop-down menu on the homepage (www.sqa.org.uk). This new page contains advice about the delivery of Work Experience and Work Shadowing Units and features direct links to the Unit descriptors for both sets of Units. Links to the 'WorkIT' and 'PLAN IT PLUS' websites are also available.

2.2 Work Experience support

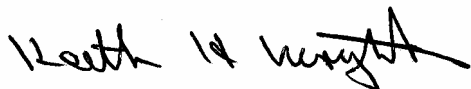
SQA has also been collaborating with Gateway to develop an online interactive resource which candidates and centres can use both to identify work placements and track candidate progress as they set up, take part in and review their work placement. A number of education authorities already work in partnership with Gateway in this area of the curriculum. SQA and Gateway are identifying the key parts of this online resource which will constitute the evidence requirements for this Unit. There is a direct link to the Gateway website on the Work Experience page of SQA's website or at **www.workit.info**. Access to the support materials is controlled by Gateway and further information about this can be obtained from Wylie Wright (e-mail: **wylie.wright@ceg.org.uk**). Gateway anticipates that the completed resource with accompanying notes about key assessment tasks will be made available during the summer months.

2.3 New Units

- i. *Work Shadowing Access 3 and Intermediate 1 (DR3V 09 and DR3V 10)*: The previous Unit on Work Shadowing at Access 3 (EA8M 09) has been revised to articulate with a new Unit on Work Shadowing (DR3V 10) which has been written at Intermediate 1 level. The earlier version will be withdrawn from the catalogue in July 2007. The new Unit at Intermediate 1 also has support materials available which SQA has developed in association with East Dunbartonshire Council. These support materials can be downloaded free of charge from the Work Experience page of SQA's website. These support materials have been prior verified as a valid instrument of assessment.
- ii. *Creative Thinking and Goal Setting (DV91 11)*: This new Unit is now available at Intermediate 2 level. It has been developed as part of the 'SWELL' (Scottish Workforce Empowerment for Lifelong Learners) project. An online resource to support this Unit either as a distance learning tool, or to help deliver the Unit in the classroom, is under construction.

I hope that the above information is of interest to you. If you have any queries about these or any other Personal & Social Education issues please contact Keith Wright, the Qualifications Manager in this area, at the details given above.

Yours faithfully



Keith H Wright
Qualifications Manager