

27 February 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools
FE Colleges

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the
delivery of National Qualifications in Philosophy**

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

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Dear Colleague

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Philosophy.

Diet 2003

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for diet 2003 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These include:

- ◆ PA report Intermediate 2
- ◆ PA report Higher
- ◆ PA report Advanced Higher
- ◆ Senior Moderator report National Qualification Units

Appeals

Stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed successfully. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following documents prior to submitting appeals:

- ◆ *The Appeals Process: a guide for centres* (AA0690/3, June 2002)
- ◆ *Estimates and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on generating evidence* (A0992/2, February 2001)

NB Revised versions of both documents are due to be issued in March 2004. Copies of these documents can be downloaded from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for appeals this year were:

- ◆ Evidence does not sufficiently represent the whole Course.
- ◆ Evidence has been marked inconsistently and does not match the national standard.
- ◆ Evidence has not been graded.

National Qualifications Review

The consultation exercise is now well underway with the questionnaire distributed to centres at the start of January. Completed questionnaires should be returned to SQA by the end of January. Ephraim Borowski, the Development Officer for Philosophy, would welcome the opportunity to visit centres or Local Authority group meetings to discuss issues related to the consultation. Should you wish to discuss any issue with Ephraim he can be contacted either by telephone on 0141-638 1100 or by e-mail at sqa-philosophy@beeb.net.

A Subject Advisory Group, which has a wide representation of staff who are teaching the Philosophy Courses, has been established. The group will meet four or five times over the period of the review to advise on and assist with developments.

The consultation document and updates on the review can be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) on the Philosophy page.

Assessment Panel

The Social Sciences Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in Philosophy as well as the other social sciences subjects. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers. The structure and membership of Assessment Panels is currently under review.

Decisions as to their future will be issued to centres in due course.

Higher Philosophy

I take this opportunity to remind you that the duration of Higher Philosophy exam is extending to **2 hours 40 minutes** in Diet 2004. The structure and length of the question paper is not changing, the increase is to allow candidates more time to develop their answers.

In addition, **in Diet 2005**, the layout of the paper will change slightly. The Moral Philosophy questions will become Section C, with the Logic questions moving to Section D. This keeps the essay question sections together followed by the Logic section which uses a different type of assessment instrument.

I hope that you find the above information useful. If you would like to discuss any matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0141-242 2343 or e-mail tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Tom Stannage
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Sciences