

12 November 2007

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary schools and further education colleges

Cc: HMIE
LEA contacts
SQA Customer Support Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Physical Education update

The contents of this letter should be passed to the teachers/lecturers responsible for Physical Education.

The newsletter updates staff on issues from last session 2006/07 and highlights important information for the current session 2007/08 for National Qualifications in Physical Education.

I hope the contents of this letter are helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact either Lee Ross (0845 213 5481, lee.ross@sqa.org.uk) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer di Folco

Jennifer di Folco
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications — Physical Education

National Qualifications — Physical Education

1. Standard Grade DVD

The following is information and clarification about the DVDs used in the Standard Grade Evaluating element of the examination at Foundation, General and Credit levels.

Teachers are reminded that the DVD for each level will run for one hour **approximately** and candidates will have a minimum of 20 minutes break between levels. Centres are advised to ensure that the Foundation examination starts on time.

Please note that a digital clock has been added to the Knowledge and Understanding section for each level of the 2008 DVD. This should be allowed to run its full time to indicate to the candidates the time allocated for the KU section.

We advise teachers to check DVD equipment and to make use of the 20 minutes available for checking the DVDs prior to the examination. Evidence has shown that the DVDs play best on DVD equipment and that difficulties can arise when centres attempt to play them on computers. It is worth noting that the quality of the picture can also be reduced when the DVD is played through a data projector.

2. Principal Assessors' and Senior Verifiers' reports

Principal Assessors and Senior Verifiers and their examining teams are thanked for their efforts in delivering a successful diet. The Principal Assessors' and Senior Verifiers' reports, which are published on our website (www.sqa.org.uk), are an invaluable source of advice and good practice. Centres are urged most strongly to access this material.

3. Markers

SQA is again grateful to those who marked question papers in the 2007 diet. There are vacancies for Markers at all levels of Physical Education. We invite and would welcome teachers/lecturers with three years experience of Physical Education Course delivery to apply for what is potentially an excellent professional development experience. To apply please contact Isobel Etchells on 0131-271 6759 or e-mail: isobel.etchells@sqa.org.uk.

4. Exemplification

A further set of exemplification materials from diet 2007 is available. Centres are reminded that these are in electronic form and can only be downloaded by SQA Co-ordinators. The following is a list of new exemplification:

Intermediate 1 (2007)

- ◆ Badminton: Skills and Techniques — Overhead Clear — Candidate 1
- ◆ Badminton: Skills and Techniques — Overhead Clear — Candidate 2

Intermediate 2 (2007)

- ◆ Badminton: Skills and Techniques — Overhead Clear

Higher (2007)

- ◆ Swimming: Preparation of the Body — Speed Endurance

- ◆ Volleyball: Skills and Techniques — Dig

Advanced Higher — Unit (2007)

- ◆ Analysis and Development of Performance: Football — Skills and Techniques

5. National Assessment Bank (NAB)

An additional NAB for Access 3 is soon to be published.

This NAB (NAB002) offers centres an alternative and different version to the original. Please note the original NAB (NAB001) is still valid.

This material is published in electronic form and can be downloaded only by the SQA Co-ordinator in your centre.

6. Professional Development Workshop

SQA's Professional Development Workshop (PDW) programme has been a great success since its inception in terms of bringing teaching colleagues together to learn about SQA's standards and how they are applied to specific subject areas and levels.

After a very successful first event last year, Physical Education will be holding its next PDW event in Caledonian University, Glasgow.

The main focus of the day is dedicated to the promotion of understanding standards in the external component of the Higher Physical Education Course: the question paper. This is achieved through presentations and workshops where delegates have the opportunity to mark candidates' scripts from the 2007 diet of examinations. There will also be the opportunity to discuss the rationale and detail of the assessments with the presenters.

In addition, all delegates will receive a pack of material which they can share with staff in their centres.

Subject	Level	Date	Venue	Price
Physical Education	Higher	Saturday 10 November 2007	Glasgow Caledonian University	£160

7. Estimates and Appeals

We have recently updated the *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on evidence requirements* document and this has been available on our website since October 2006. A hard-copy has been issued to every centre. In particular, the document clarifies subject specific requirements as well as guidance on the general principles for generating Estimates and submitting evidence for Appeals.

Note: The general principles in this document also apply to Standard Grade Physical Education.

During the session, as you prepare your candidates for the 2008 external examination, please refer to the following advice when compiling Estimates of candidate attainment and evidence for Appeals purposes.

When generating Estimates and Appeals evidence for your candidates at all levels (including Standard Grade unless otherwise stated), you are reminded that:

- ◆ the overall Estimate should reflect both Course components, ie the Performance and the question paper and centres should take into account the weightings of these components.
- ◆ to compile the Estimate — take the evidence of attainment for the question paper in a prelim type event which replicates the standard, duration, format and demands of an SQA question paper (**Note:** this should be taken from at least three different sources and that a past paper in its entirety will not be accepted as evidence to support an Appeal). Combine this with the evidence of attainment for Performance to assess your candidates and to arrive at marks. You are advised to use the Course Assessment Specification document which can be accessed on the Physical Education webpage.

***Note:** At Standard Grade level centres are able to use the SQA Evaluating DVD and its associated questions in its entirety as a prelim but for KU the prelim, if using SQA past papers, must be made up from at least three past papers, 1998 – present.*

- ◆ to compile Appeals evidence you must have evidence for the question paper . This evidence must show the same breadth of coverage of the content of the Course as an SQA question paper. A prelim-type event is going to be an indicator of likely candidate performance in the external examination when pressure of time and retention of learning are significant factors. The evidence for the question paper should again replicate the standard, conditions, duration, format and security of SQA question papers.
- ◆ sets of questions should not be lifted en-bloc from SQA’s past papers (eg question 1 and 2 from any one SQA Higher question paper is not acceptable).
- ◆ where the sources are past papers, the years must be stated.
- ◆ the prelim is not equivalent in demand to the Course assessment when two assessments are used as a prelim and are separated by a period of time. This split-prelim is considered to be less demanding than a full prelim event and this should be taken into consideration when compiling the Estimate and submitting this type of evidence for Appeals.

***Note:** At Standard Grade level when only one component of the paper is being appealed for, centres are advised to submit a complete prelim paper in its entirety. This will give a clear indication that the prelim paper, as sat by the candidate, was as demanding as the final SQA examination.*

- ◆ NABs will not lend weight to Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 or Higher Appeals because they do not replicate the conditions of SQA’s question paper and centres should not submit NABs as evidence. The exception to this is at Advanced Higher level where evidence of attainment for both NABs is required.
- ◆ marking instructions for the assessment instruments are essential because they give an indication of the standards you applied. The *detailed marking instructions* at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher level are acceptable but you are asked to note that the examining team has produced *extended marking instructions* which you are advised to use as a format when compiling your own marking instructions. You can access the extended marking instructions on the Physical Education webpage, under marking instructions.

Note: At Standard Grade level you can access detailed marking instructions for both Evaluating and Knowledge and Understanding on the Physical Education webpage.

- ◆ evidence not supported by the cut-off scores is invalid. The cut-off scores are also essential information to enable Examiners to gauge the standards being applied by centres.

When generating Estimates and compiling evidence for Absentee consideration and Appeals, you should also refer to:

- ◆ Course Arrangements documents, which include Course Grade descriptions
- ◆ Course Assessment specifications
- ◆ SQA question papers
- ◆ SQA marking instructions
- ◆ Principal Assessor reports, which include information on Grade boundaries
- ◆ exemplification materials
- ◆ any other relevant information (eg Course reports, subject update letters).

These materials are available on the subject pages of our website (www.sqa.org.uk).