

September 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
(Secondary schools and colleges of further education)  
Directors of Education  
SCIS  
Customer Account Managers

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
Note — update/information only

Contact Name: Stan da Prato  
Direct Line: 0845 213 5500  
E-mail: stan.daprato@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications update — Politics**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Politics.

### **Understanding Standards event**

We propose to hold a one day event in our Optima building in Glasgow on Tuesday 23 February 2010. The Principal Assessor will exemplify standards using responses from recent examinations. The event will be free of charge to participants. Would anyone interested in attending please e-mail Duncan Cox ([duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk](mailto:duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk)) to express interest.

### **Examination diet 2009**

The Principal Assessor, Examining Team and Markers are thanked for delivering a successful diet. The examination was well received overall. Performance was very good with marks slightly up in the more demanding paper 2. Encouragingly, the number of candidates increased from 142 to 163.

The full reports of the Principal Assessor, now known as the External Assessment Report, and Senior Verifier will appear on our website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) by the end of October.

### **Estimates and Appeals**

The updated *Guidance on Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals* is available on our website.

Centres should note the advice given about raising cut-off scores where split prelims are used. Centres are reminded that SQA past paper questions may be used in prelims but whole question papers are not acceptable. At Higher level this means that paper 1 should come from two past papers; paper 2 should be drawn from three or more.

Centres are also reminded that marking instructions and sources of questions must be included with the evidence even when NABs or past SQA questions have been used.

All queries on appeals should be addressed to the Appeals Helpline at: **appeals@sqa.org.uk**.

### **SQA's website**

The subject page is the main source of information on the National Qualification in Politics. It contains the current and past reports of the Principal Assessor, the Course specification, specimen question papers, previous National Qualifications updates and marking instructions for the 2009 and recent diets. The website address is **www.sqa.org.uk**. On the homepage, select 'Politics' from the NQ subject drop-down menu and then select 'GO'.

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Duncan Cox (**duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk**) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley da Prato". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Prato".

Stan da Prato  
Qualifications Manager