

9 February 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinator  
Secondary Schools

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of  
National Qualifications in Religious, Moral and  
Philosophical Studies**

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

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Dear Colleague

**NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

**Diet 2003**

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

- ◆ PA Report for Intermediate 1
- ◆ PA Report for Intermediate 2
- ◆ PA Report for Higher
- ◆ PA Report for Advanced Higher
- ◆ PA Report for Standard Grade
- ◆ Senior Moderator Report for National Qualification Units
- ◆ Senior Moderator Report for Standard Grade

**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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

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

- ◆ Wrong or incomplete evidence.
- ◆ Submission of inadequate NAB evidence, ie remediated NAB evidence or evidence which barely met the criteria.
- ◆ Evidence did not cover the complete Course.

### **National Qualifications Review**

The questionnaire in early 2003 consulted on issues relating to assessment, but in carrying out the results of the consultation it soon became apparent that these could not be completed without making some major changes to content of the Courses. As a result a request for an extension to the Review period was made and this has now been granted. The revised Courses will be ready for implementation in August 2005 with the first exam diet in 2006. As a reminder: question papers based on the current Courses will **not** be available in 2006.

Pauline Rodger, the National Development Officer has visited a large number of schools and authorities across the country to discuss the planned changes and to ascertain the views of colleagues. The NQ Review Investigation Report for RMPS and subject review Updates and reports can also be found on SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

### **Consultation Seminars**

In light of the above, content changes and revised exam structures are currently being developed. The Subject Advisory Group and the Higher and Intermediate 1 and 2 setting teams have been closely involved in the developments. A number of consultation seminars will be held in **March 2004** to enable fine-tuning of these developments. Centres that currently deliver or have delivered RMPS Courses in the past will receive further information in due course.

### **Advanced Higher**

A further result of the review of Courses is that the internal assessment of the Advanced Higher Units should be reduced by 50%. It will now be necessary for candidates to complete only **one** essay rather than two. Current NABs can of course continue to be used. This will take effect from **August 2004**.

### **Assessment Panel**

The RMPS Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in the subject. Assessment Panel members have also been kept in touch with review developments and fully support the decision to extend the review period. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

### **Short Courses**

In response to demand from centres it has been decided that the short Courses *A World of Values* and *Moral Issues in Technology* should remain. These have been revised and will be available for delivery next session.

## **Being an SQA Marker**

To become a Marker, we normally ask that you have taught the Course for at least three years, preferably within the past three years. We welcome applications throughout the year and, where a suitable vacancy exists, we may be able to offer an appointment for this year. If you are interested in becoming a Marker, an application form can be downloaded from SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)). Alternatively, please contact us on 0131-561 6825 and we will send a form to you.

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 me at [tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk](mailto:tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Stannage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Stannage  
Qualifications Manager  
NQ Social Sciences