

Our ref: MH/RMPS

October 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinator (secondary schools, FE colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS

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

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

Contact: Mary Hainey at Glasgow
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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 2010

The External Assessment and Internal Assessment reports for diet 2010, formerly known as Principal Assessor and Senior Verifier reports can now be found on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk). These include:

- ◆ External Assessment report Intermediate 1
- ◆ External Assessment report Intermediate 2
- ◆ External Assessment report Higher
- ◆ External Assessment report Advanced Higher
- ◆ External Assessment report Standard Grade
- ◆ Internal Assessment report Standard Grade
- ◆ Internal Assessment report National Qualification Units

Appeals

The procedures for Stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed during September and October. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following document prior to submitting appeals:

- ◆ *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements*

The document – *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements* has undergone revision and will be posted on the SQA website in due course. The revised version clarifies what subject specific evidence is required when submitting an appeal for question paper based Courses.

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

- ◆ Course Arrangements documents, which include Course Grade Descriptions
- ◆ Course Assessment Specifications
- ◆ SQA question papers, including specimen question papers
- ◆ SQA marking instructions
- ◆ External Assessment reports, which include information on Grade Boundaries
- ◆ exemplification materials
- ◆ any other relevant information (eg Course Reports, subject update letters)

These materials, and more, are also available on the subject pages of our website.

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for Appeals this year were related to the fact that it did not adequately cover the whole Course. These were:

- ◆ the KU/AE balance clearly laid out in the Course Assessment Specifications and the specimen question paper was not adhered to
- ◆ questions lifted *en bloc* from one section or more of the past papers or specimen question paper
- ◆ using the specimen question paper, a past paper or a past commercially produced paper in its entirety
- ◆ prelim questions were drawn from too few sources
- ◆ where NABs were used the KU/AE balance was not adjusted or questions were not adapted

It is important to emphasise the clarity required when identifying sources. Centres must ensure that details of the sources of each prelim question are included with Appeals evidence. For example: Question 2 – SQA QP 2007 – Paper 1 or Section 1.

Centres should note that the above problems will disadvantage candidates and staff are encouraged to read the External Assessment Reports.

Marking instructions

The question papers and finalised marking instructions for Course assessments at each level are posted on the NQ RMPS page of SQA's website.

RMPS Courses

After the first year of delivery of the revised Courses, very minor amends have been made to the following documents at both RMPS Higher and Advanced Higher levels: -

RMPS Higher

- Course Arrangement document
- Specimen Question Paper - In next year's Higher exam the numbering of the questions has been altered as it was felt that it would be more beneficial for candidates if the questions were clearly grouped together. Please refer to the Specimen Question Paper which has been updated to reflect the intended layout of the 2011 Exam paper.
- All NABs

RMPS Advanced Higher

- Course Arrangement document
- Specimen Question Paper - In next year's Advanced Higher exam question the cross over question has been removed. Please refer to the Specimen Question Paper which has been updated to reflect the intended layout of the 2011 Exam paper.
- All NABs

Amended documents will be signposted by publication date on the website and centres are urged to check for updates as a matter of urgency so that candidates are not disadvantaged. Revised NABs will automatically replace the published version on the SQA secure site and centres should use whichever version is available at the time of delivery.

Advanced Higher Dissertations

An approved list of topics is available on the NQ RMPS page of SQA's website. Please ensure that candidate dissertations are relevant to the prescribed topic. The uplift date is Wednesday 27 April 2011.

Assessment Panel

The RMPS Assessment Panel continues to meet annually to look at issues arising in the subject. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

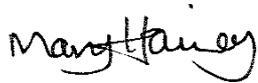
Becoming a Marker

Each year the number of entries for the RMPS Courses is increasing. If you are interested in becoming a marker in RMPS, information and applications forms are available on the Appointee Management section of the SQA website. To become a Marker, we normally ask that you are in your third year of teaching the Course. We welcome applications throughout the year and, where a suitable vacancy exists, we may be able to offer an appointment for this year. The RMPS Courses are Centrally Marked – this entails the marker marking scripts over one or two extended periods in the same venue.

In a number of subject areas we have had recent examples where the results in centres have improved dramatically after a member of staff joined the marking team. The experience of marking helps to increase the awareness of the demands of Course assessment and is proven to be excellent professional and personal development.

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 0845 213 5502 or e-mail me at mary.hainey@sqa.org.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Hainey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in "Hainey".

Mary Hainey
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Sciences and Care