

Our ref: TS/RMPS

13 October 2005

To: SQA Coordinator (Secondary Schools)
Directors of Education
SCIS
Customer Account Managers

**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 to RMPS Staff
	None — update/information only

Contact: Tom Stannage 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 2005

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for Diet 2005 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These include:

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

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 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, April 2004)

Both documents can be downloaded from SQA's website.

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

- ◆ Wrong or incomplete marking schemes.
- ◆ Submission of inadequate NAB evidence, ie remediated NAB evidence or evidence which barely met the criteria.
- ◆ Evidence did not cover the complete Course.
- ◆ NABs which were completed at different times over a one- or two-year period submitted as the only evidence. This does not show any retention of knowledge on the candidate's part and does not therefore meet the added value criteria.

Centres should note that the above problems may disadvantage candidates and staff are encouraged to read the Principal Assessor Reports.

Marking Instructions

The finalised marking instructions for Diet 2005 Course assessments at each level are posted on the RMPS web page. It is hoped that these will be of benefit to staff when preparing a prelim paper or when submitting evidence in the event of making appeals.

Dual Running of the Current and Revised Courses for 2005 – 2006

Centres are already aware that candidates can be entered for either the “old” or the revised Courses in RMPS for session 2005 - 2006. **Both the old and the revised Courses will be available in Session 2005/06 only, thereafter only the revised Courses will be available.** There are a number of risks involved in dual running for both centres and for SQA. Centres are asked to ensure that candidates are entered for the correct Course when entries are made later this year for the 2006 diet.

The current component Units of each Course will remain as free-standing Units **except** the *World Religions* Unit. This will enable centres which deliver those Units in core RE the opportunity to continue using current resources.

Moderation of RMPS Units

We intend to carry out a pilot exercise on completed and partially completed RMPS Units including free-standing Units and component Units of Courses at each level. About 100 centres will be selected for moderation with approximately 50% visiting moderation in February/March 2006 and 50% retrospective moderation in August 2006.

Centres selected for visiting moderation will be given full information by the Moderation Team in November and those selected for retrospective moderation will be given details in May. Centres are advised to retain all candidate internal assessment evidence in respect of Units delivered in the event of selection.

Reminder — Advanced Higher

As a result of the review of Courses, the internal assessment of the Advanced Higher Units was reduced by 50%. It is now necessary for candidates to complete only **one** essay rather than two. Current NABs can of course continue to be used. This change was implemented in August 2004.

New Units

A new Unit entitled *Spirituality in a Religious Context* has been developed at both Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2. These will become available for use as from January and will be posted on the website in due course.

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. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

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

Yours faithfully



Tom Stannage
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Sciences