

14 February 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinator (Secondary Schools  
and Colleges of Further Education)  
Directors of Education  
SCIS  
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

**NQ Review of Modern Studies: Update on Revised Courses (due for Implementation in session 2006/07)**

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

The following provides advice on the revised Modern Studies Courses (Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher) which will be implemented in the next academic year (ie session 2006/07)

**1. Higher paper 1 rubric**

In order to clarify the demand of the paper for candidates, this will now read:

Candidates should answer FOUR questions:

ONE from Section A

and

ONE from Section B

and

ONE from Section C

and

ONE OTHER from **EITHER** Section A **OR** Section C

The specimen question paper on SQA's website has been amended accordingly.

**2. Estimates and appeals**

Specimen question papers (and marking instructions) are in the public domain and should not be used in preparing estimates or in supporting appeals. The most robust evidence is a preliminary examination modeled on the specimen paper, drawing on items from NABs.

### **3. Question stems in Higher paper 1**

Candidates can be asked to assess the importance, significance or effectiveness of a development/issue. Where candidates assess the importance of a factor as a cause, for example, they can and should mention the relative importance of other factors. This can be taught using a spider diagram, with the 'isolated factor' one of those feeding in.

### **4. Half marks**

Half marks will not be used in SQA marking instructions or marking from session 2006/07 onwards, in either paper 1 or paper 2. In a 15 mark response, the bare pass response merits 8 marks.

### **5. The Politics of Development**

The concept of 'aid' is implicit in this Study Theme, as in the roles of governments etc in promoting development.

### **6. Background knowledge in DME reports**

Best practice is to integrate background knowledge into the report. Candidates should look out for and use the triggers in the text and particularly the statistical sources.

A useful tip for candidates is to annotate the origin of the points they make in the report in the left hand margin (eg C1 from a statistical source, or BK for background knowledge). This serves as a check for the candidate on whether all the sources, as well as background knowledge, have been used.

### **7. Update on NABs**

The following NABs have been published. Please contact your SQA Co-ordinator to access these.

DV5210/NAB001	Political Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5210/NAB002	Political Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5210/NAB003	Political Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5410/NAB001	International Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5410/NAB002	International Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5410/NAB003	International Issues in the UK	Int 1
DV5211/NAB001	Political Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5211/NAB002	Political Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5211/NAB003	Political Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5311/NAB001	Social Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5311/NAB002	Social Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5311/NAB003	Social Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5411/NAB001	International Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5411/NAB002	International Issues in the UK	Int 2
DV5411/NAB003	International Issues in the UK	Int 2

The NAB on Social Issues for Higher issued at the NQ launch events in November is being revised and will be re-issued shortly. Progress on further NAB publications can be checked on the Modern Studies subject page.

## **8. Specimen papers for Intermediate**

The Intermediate 2 specimen question paper and marking instructions been published on the Modern Studies subject page of the website. The paper for Intermediate 1 will follow shortly.

## **9. Support on assessment at Higher**

To support understanding of the standards in respect of the 15 mark essays in paper 1, SQA will publish further sample answers and marker comments on the Modern Studies subject page of our website.

## **10. Update on Teaching Materials**

All enquiries should go to Bill Boyd at LTS (e-mail: [w.boyd@ltsotland.org.uk](mailto:w.boyd@ltsotland.org.uk) or tel: 0141-337 5187. After 27 February 2006 his number is 0141-282 5187). Publications and updates on forthcoming materials will be posted on the LTS website. These are accessed from the LTS Home Page under 'Resources', clicking on 'Resources for National Qualifications' and then clicking either 'New titles in the e-library' or 'Forthcoming support materials'.

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Veronica Curran (0141-242 2332) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Cheyne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Larry Cheyne  
Qualifications Manager