

27 February 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of
National Qualifications in Sociology**

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

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Dear Colleague

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN SOCIOLOGY

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Sociology.

Diet 2003

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

- ◆ PA report Intermediate 1 and 2 Sociology
- ◆ PA report Higher Sociology
- ◆ PA report Advanced Higher Sociology
- ◆ SM report National Qualification Units

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).

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

- ◆ Evidence was partial and did not sufficiently represent the whole course
- ◆ Evidence had been marked inconsistently, did not match the national standard or standards had been interpreted leniently

- ◆ Evidence had not been graded nor any comments made on why a candidate had been estimated at a particular grade.
- ◆ Evidence submitted indicated that candidate had achieved on first or second REASSESSMENT but estimated grade was high.

National Qualifications Review

A national Development Officer, John Lewis, has been appointed to lead the review of NQ Sociology, which will be taking place during 2004 with a view to implementing changes during the academic year 2005/06. The consultation phase commenced recently with the distribution of paper copies of a questionnaire to delivering centres and other relevant organisations/individuals. Electronic copies of the questionnaire were posted on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) and the return date for all questionnaires was Friday, 6 February 2004.

This consultation seeks to reach as wide an audience as possible and is designed to identify the extent to which issues regarding NQ Sociology need to be addressed at each level, though the main focus is on Higher and Intermediate 2. Should you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact John Lewis on 0141-357 5180 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) or at john.lewis@sqa.org.uk. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 0141-242 2322 or at lesley.joyce@sqa.org.uk. John and I will welcome all contributions to this review.

Assessment Panel

The Social Sciences Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in Sociology as well as the other social sciences subjects. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers. The structure and membership of Assessment Panels is currently under review. Decisions as to their future will be issued to centres in due course.

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 contact me.

Yours faithfully



Lesley Joyce
Business Manager
National Qualifications Division