

1 June 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinators (Secondary Schools and FE Colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS
LEA Contacts
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

**National Qualifications – DRAMA Intermediate 1 and 2 Update
Changes to Question Papers for 2006 Examination and after**

Please pass the contents of this letter to the member of staff responsible for Drama.

I write to confirm that the proposed changes to the Drama Intermediate 1 and 2 Question Papers will start in the 2006 examination (see Drama Subject Update 2004 page 6, published 8 November 2004).

Please note that page 2 of this letter details the following:

- 1. Rationale for Change**
- 2. Summary of Change**
- 3. Where to access Specimen Question Papers and Marking Instructions**

In addition, we have attached details of the specific pages of the Arrangements documents which are affected by the changes. The revised edition of the Arrangements documents for both Intermediate 1 and 2 Drama will be published on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) in due course. However, in the meantime, please detach and add these replacement pages to your current Arrangements documents.

If you would like further clarification on any of the contents of this letter or attached documentation, please contact Muriel Walker (contact details above), or myself — Mary McDonald on 0131-271 6774, or e-mail: mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

1. Rationale for Change

As a result of the NQ Review recommendations for Drama Intermediate 1 and 2, the Question Papers for these levels moved into the examination diet for the first time in 2003. The format of these papers is currently the same as when the assessments were centre-invigilated written assignments.

Feedback from centres over the past two years culminating in positive support to proposals for change (see Subject Update letter of March 2004) directed us to amend the Arrangements documents (see attached sheets) to broaden the scope of the Question Papers and allow more adequate sampling of the knowledge and skills which are taught in the component Units of the Course.

2. Summary of Changes

The following apply to both Intermediate 1 and 2 Drama:

- ◆ Marks allocated to the Question Paper change from 30 to 50
- ◆ Practical Examination marks change to 25, scaled by SQA to 50
- ◆ Total marks allocation for the external Course award is 100
- ◆ No change to the duration of each Question Paper at 1 hour and 30 minutes

Course Arrangements documents have been amended as follows:

- ◆ Intermediate 1 Drama: Pages 1, 9 and 10
- ◆ Intermediate 2 Drama: Pages 1, 9, 10 and 11

3. Where to access Specimen Question Papers and Marking Instructions

For both Intermediate 1 and 2 levels a Specimen Question Paper with full Marking Instructions has been published on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

To access these Specimen Papers, please do the following:

- ◆ Open SQA's website
- ◆ Select a subject – NQ – Drama
- ◆ Select *Arrangements Documents and Specimen Question Papers* and under the Intermediate 1 or 2 Arrangements documents you will find the Specimen Question Paper for that level

Specific Changes to Intermediate 1 Arrangements document for session 2005/2006

Page 1 – Notification of Change to Arrangements will be replaced by the following new Note on Changes to Arrangements:

For 2006 and after, the Question Paper will have a:

- ◆ maximum mark of 50 (no scaling)
- ◆ duration of 1 hour 30 minutes

For 2006 and after, the Practical Exam will have a:

- ◆ maximum mark of 25, scaled to 50

Page 9 – Details of the Instruments for External Assessment will now read as:

The external course assessment will comprise a question paper and a practical examination.

The total marks available will be 100:

- ◆ the Question Paper will be marked out of 50
- ◆ the Practical Examination will be marked out of 25 (scaled to a maximum mark of 50)

SQA will weight those marks as follows:

- ◆ Practical Examination: 50% of marks available
- ◆ Question Paper: 50% of marks available

Page 10 – Question Paper section

The question paper will represent 50% of the total Course assessment. It will involve the evaluation of a devised dramatic presentation based on a theme chosen from a list of three provided by SQA. Candidates will be required to show basic knowledge and understanding of drama form and structure, drama purpose and/or message, selection of dramatic roles, characterisation and character relationships, and use of theatrical effects to enhance presentation to an audience.

Candidates will be required to:

- ◆ Outline a dramatic presentation based on the chosen theme.
- ◆ Describe one dramatic role from their dramatic scene in terms of background, personality, attitudes, interests and relationships to other characters.
- ◆ Describe dramatic moments and/or mood.
- ◆ Outline the purpose and/or message of their drama.
- ◆ Explain character purpose and relationships.
- ◆ Describe staging and draw a ground plan.
- ◆ Explain what kind of voice and movement could be used to act one of the dramatic roles from their dramatic presentation.
- ◆ Describe **at least two** theatrical effects which could be used to enhance the presentation of their devised dramatic scene to an audience. (Theatrical effects may be set, sound, lighting, props, make-up or costume. Candidates may choose one effect from two areas or two effects from the same area.)
- ◆ Describe the target audience.

The question paper will be timetabled in the main examination diet. The choice of themes will be issued to centres at a time which allows practical exploration to be undertaken in class prior to the examination date. Some of the additional 40 hours may be used for this purpose.

Specific Changes to Intermediate 2 Arrangements document for session 2005/2006

Notification of Change to Arrangements on Page 1 will be replaced by the following new Note on Changes to Arrangements:

For 2006 and after, the Question Paper will have a:

- ◆ maximum mark of 50 (no scaling)
- ◆ duration of 1 hour 30 minutes

For 2006 and after, the Practical Exam will have a:

- ◆ maximum mark of 25, scaled to 50

Page 9 – Details of the Instruments for External Assessment will now read as:

The external course assessment will comprise a question paper and a practical examination.

The total marks available will be 100:

- ◆ the Question Paper will be marked out of 50
- ◆ the Practical Examination will be marked out of 25 (scaled to a maximum mark of 50)

SQA will weight those marks as follows:

- ◆ Practical Examination: 50%
- ◆ Question Paper Practical Examination: 50%

Page 10/11 – Question Paper section

The question paper will represent 50% of the total Course assessment. It will involve the dramatic and theatrical analysis of a short dramatic extract from a choice of three provided by SQA. Candidates will be required to show knowledge and understanding of textual analysis, dramatic analysis, role play, improvisation, and other drama skills. They will also be required to show knowledge and understanding of an area of theatre production skills.

Candidates will be required to:

- ◆ Identify and discuss the themes and issues and features of the extract in terms of plot, narrative, structure, setting, time and place.
- ◆ Identify and discuss the style and/or dramatic form of the extract.
- ◆ Identify and discuss the mood and atmosphere of the extract.
- ◆ Outline and justify the dramatic message which the candidate would wish to communicate in the presentation of the extract to the audience.
- ◆ Discuss the characters in the extracts in terms of motivation and relationships to other character.
- ◆ Discuss the characterisation in practical terms, through use of role-play, improvisation and other drama skills.
- ◆ Discuss the extract in terms of **two or more** of the following theatre production skills:

- (a) acting of one character
- (b) set design
- (c) sound design
- (d) lighting design
- (e) props design
- (f) costume design
- (g) make-up design
- (h) directing

The question paper will be timetabled in the main examination diet. The selection of extracts will be issued to centres at a time which allows practical exploration to be undertaken in class, prior to the examination date. Some of the additional 40 hours may be used for this purpose.