

7 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 — Standard Grade Drama Update  
New Question Paper Format for 2006 Examination and after**

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

The attachments to this letter contain details of the changes to the Question Paper structure for Standard Grade Drama for the 2006 examination and after. This information is in the form of ten frequently asked questions and it is hoped that the answers to these will further support you in preparing your candidates for the 2006 examination. Please detach these pages, make copies and distribute these to all of your Drama staff.

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

Yours faithfully



Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager

**Standard Grade Drama  
New Question Paper Format for 2006 Examination  
Questions and Answers**

**1. Why change from a combined F/G/C Question Paper?**

For years, there has been strong evidence that the existing combined Question Paper which is sat by all candidates is not meeting the needs of the majority. The new Question Papers will provide differentiated assessment pathways for candidates of all ability levels. For background information, please see Drama Subject Update letters of March and November 2004.

**2. Where can we access the Specimen Question Papers?**

Specimen Question Papers with Marking Instructions are available for Foundation, General and Credit levels. These were published in January 2005 on SQA's website:  
**[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)**

To access the Specimen Question Papers, please do the following:

- ◆ open SQA's website and select NQ – Drama
- ◆ select *Arrangements Documents and Specimen Question Papers*, and under the Standard Grade Arrangements you will find the Specimen Question Papers

**3. How many Question Papers does each candidate sit?**

In common with most other Standard Grade subjects, each candidate will sit two Question Papers — either Foundation and General or General and Credit.

**4. When do we have to decide which levels (F and G, or G and C) to enter our Standard Grade pupils for?**

You would enter your candidates for two levels in November of S4 (Foundation and General, or General and Credit). As the teacher, you know your candidates best and you will therefore be in the best position, through the evidence that you gather, to decide the most appropriate levels at which to enter your candidates.

Please note that you can change these entry levels at a later date (see your school's SQA Co-ordinator for further information).

**5. What is the duration of each of the new Standard Grade Question Papers?**

Foundation: 45 minutes  
General: 45 minutes  
Credit: 1 hour

**6. How will these Question Papers be timetabled?**

In the 2006 Examination and after, the three Standard Grade Drama Question Papers will be timetabled consecutively in the following order:

1. Foundation
2. General
3. Credit

## **7. What are the maximum marks and cut off scores for the grades available for each Question Paper?**

Foundation Paper:	maximum mark = 50
General Paper:	maximum mark = 60
Credit Paper:	maximum mark = 70

At Standard Grade the broad principle for defining cut off scores is as follows:

- ◆ 70% or above to gain the upper grade available for that Question Paper (eg at Credit a score of 70% or above = Grade 1)
- ◆ 50-70% to gain the lower grade available for that Question Paper (eg at Credit a score of 50-70% = Grade 2)

Please note that this is the application of a broad principle and may alter slightly depending on the Question Paper, given that Question Papers can never be exactly the same each year.

## **8. How similar will the new Question Papers (2006 examinations and after) be to the Specimen Question Papers?**

Specimen Question Papers are produced to exemplify the approach of a live paper and to help centres and candidates prepare for the external examination. The Standard Grade Drama Specimen Question Papers detail the duration, format, and possible sampled content of the Question Papers which will be set from now on and examined for the first time in the 2006 examination.

## **9. Section B of the Credit level Specimen Question Paper is entirely devoted to a response to a stimulus. Will that always be the case?**

No. Candidates may be tested on their response to an unseen stimulus and their knowledge of Drama terminology. They may also be required to draw on their experiences over the two year course in questions which will assess their knowledge and understanding of the application of Part II (the Component Parts) of the Body of Knowledge.

## **10. Which support material is available, and where can this be found?**

Please note that the Standard Grade Drama syllabus is unchanged — **the changes are to external assessment only.**

Sections 5-15 of the Standard Grade Drama Body of Knowledge have been amended to reflect the differentiated levels which will be assessed in the new Question Papers. Appendix 2 of the Standard Grade Drama Body of Knowledge document is a standardised vocabulary list. This vocabulary is not a new syllabus, but is a list of standardised, differentiated vocabulary which will be sampled in SQA Standard Grade Question Papers from 2006 and after.

**Both the Revised Body of Knowledge and the Vocabulary list were distributed to all schools in January 2005. In addition, an electronic copy is available for you to download from SQA website. This can be found by selecting NQ – Drama – Update Letters – January 2005.**