

Our ref: BL/MS

14 October 2003

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
X	Note and pass on
	None – update/information only

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Dear Colleague

**National Qualifications
English**

1. *Website*

The SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk) contains the current Arrangements for each level. The website has a dedicated subject page for English.

The Arrangements give details of syllabus and assessment requirements, together with the code numbers for Units and Courses.

The English subject page on the website also contains specimen question papers, marking instructions and reports from Principal Assessors.

2. *National Assessment Bank (NAB)*

Further items are added to the National Assessment Bank from time to time. New items issued earlier in 2003 included material for Higher Close Reading based on two passages related in theme, further material for Textual Analysis at Access 3, and video material (with printed commentary) for Personal Study (spoken response).

NAB material is now being made available online to SQA co-ordinators in centres (through a secure site). The SQA co-ordinator in each centre should be able to provide NAB material to teachers/lecturers.

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3. *Advanced Higher*

Centres are reminded that the forms for approval of dissertation topics for Advanced Higher English have been discontinued, as part of the reduction of assessment workload agreed in response to general representations from teachers and others.

The list of specified authors for Literary Study has been extended. The nominating of additional authors has been discontinued, as have the additional questions in the examination paper (on the advice of the examiners).

Details of the current Arrangements for Advanced Higher English (code C115 13) are available on the English page of the SQA website. A summary of the recent changes and a document of guidance on choice of dissertation topics are also available on the English page (under the 'NQ Review' sub-heading).

The attention of centres is drawn to the 2004 examination timetable (also available on the website), which indicates that the first one and a half hours of the Advanced Higher English examination will be specifically for the Literary Study section of the paper, now to be attempted by all candidates.

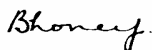
4. *Free-standing Units*

The 20-hour Units in Individual Presentation, Group Discussion and Critical Listening continue to be available as free-standing, additional Units.

5. *Prior moderation*

Information and forms in connection with prior moderation may be obtained from the moderation staff — tel 0141 242 2118.

Yours faithfully



Miss B Loney
Qualifications Manager