

Our ref: BL/MS

19 August 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Directors of Education

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

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — English

Submitted work

Centres are reminded that the dates for uplift of coursework material vary slightly from year to year. You may find the following advance information helpful:

- ◆ 27 March 2006 (Standard Grade — Folio)
- ◆ 27 April 2006 (Advanced Higher — Dissertation)

With regard to submitted work, candidates should be encouraged to make and retain a copy of work prior to submission. Exceptionally, the return of submitted work may be requested. Requests should be made by the end of September of the year concerned. There is a charge for the return of work. Further details are available from SQA (telephone: 0131-561 6951).

2006 examinations

Details were issued in June 2005 of the re-formatting of question papers at Higher, Intermediate 2 and Intermediate 1 in and after the 2006 examinations. These details and specimen question papers are available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

Professional Development Workshops

SQA is offering Professional Development Workshops for English teachers and lecturers in Autumn 2005 for Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher, and Advanced Higher. Details of dates, venues, cost and procedure for booking are available from SQA's Customer Contact Centre:

E-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk
Telephone: 0845 279 1000

Development visits

In addition to Professional Development Workshops, SQA is also offering development visits to regions, groups of centres, or individual centres in connection with external assessment in Higher English. These visits, which are conducted by the Principal Assessor for Higher English, are available on request until the end of the present session (2005/06) at no cost to regions or centres. Any requests for such visits should be directed to me in the first instance. A suitable day and a programme for each visit can then be arranged.

Guidance material

The attention of candidates should be drawn to the new Candidate Guides for Higher English. These, together with other guidance material, are available on the dedicated English page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

National Assessment Bank (NAB)

Further NAB material has recently been made available for English Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 Close Reading. The code numbers are as follows:

- ◆ D8VH 10/NAB001
- ◆ D8VH 10/NAB002
- ◆ D8VH 11/NAB001
- ◆ D8VH 11/NAB002

An extended version of one of the NAB packs for English Higher Close Reading has also been made available. (This new version offers two options for the second passage.) The code number is as follows:

- ◆ D8VH 12/NAB002

Centres are reminded that NAB material is now made available on the secure section of SQA's website.

Thanks are expressed to the centres which volunteered to participate in the pre-testing of the new NAB material.

'Conditions and Arrangements'

Summaries of Arrangements (including the list of authors and texts specified for Literary Study in Advanced Higher English) are contained in 'Conditions and Arrangements', available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These summaries do not replace the complete Arrangements (also available on SQA's website), but centres may find them helpful for reference.

Component feedback

Details are being issued to centres of marks gained by each candidate in the components of the 2005 examinations for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher. The SQA Co-ordinator in each centre should be able to provide details to departments.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bloney".

Miss B Loney
Qualifications Manager