

24 January 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Media Studies Update

The contents of this letter should be passed on to the members of staff responsible for Media Studies National Qualifications.

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention:

1. NQ Media Studies Access 3 Review

The Review is currently underway for the Access 3 Cluster. The Units and Cluster Arrangements have been produced and the validation process has been completed successfully. NABs are being finalised and the revised cluster should be available from August 2005.

Further updates will follow as we progress with this review.

2. NQ Media Studies Courses

Centres are reminded that from August 2004 the revised arrangements for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher must be followed. These Arrangements are available to download from the NQ Media Studies website page, where additional guidance and other relevant Media Studies information is available. All departments will be well under way with the revised courses by now and we have had some very positive feedback about this in the consultation replies about Advanced Higher.

3. 2005 Examinations

You should read this section in tandem with the following guidance on Estimates and Appeals.

In Intermediate 1 the Analysis section of the paper will offer more supported and low value questions than the Specimen paper, which should make it easier for candidates.

At Intermediate 2 the questions in the Analysis section will require candidates to deal with a minimum of two key aspects in relation to their chosen text.

At Higher the questions in the Analysis section will require candidates to deal with a minimum of three key aspects in relation to their chosen text.

4. Estimates and Appeals

In order to help you with prelims and possible Appeals, can we remind you that the format of the 2005 examinations will mirror the Specimen papers and Course Assessment Specification on the Media Studies page of the main website, marked naturally using the Specimen Paper Marking Instructions

To make Estimates accurate and any Appeals successful, you should remember to work with total marks of 100 at Intermediate 1, 2 and Higher. If devising a prelim examination, there should ideally be a practice Unseen Analysis to accompany a paper with a choice of Analysis questions (marked out of 40) and Production questions (marked out of 40) as per the Course Assessment Specification for the appropriate level, all marked using the guidance in the documents.

The questions could be taken from a selection of appropriate past papers or could be modified past paper questions, marked out of the above marks and, especially if internal cross marking is carried out, they could provide a very accurate guide to exam performance and also very useful Appeals evidence — should that be needed!

5. 2005 Examinations

Following a suggestion from Media Studies veters, the assessment grid attached was produced. It shows at a glance exactly what is required for each level, both for Unit and Course assessment. We hope it will prove useful to you.

Yours faithfully



Alan R Wilson
Qualifications Manager