

12 July 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
EA Special Schools
Independent Secondary
Higher Education Institutions

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update

The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Modern Languages.

Modern Languages Update

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention.

1 Examination Diet 2005: PA Reports

Principal Assessor Reports will be published on SQA's website in autumn 2005. All reports will appear individually from 2005 onwards, for all levels and each language. These can be accessed at www.sqa.org.uk, and then by following the link to the appropriate language. These reports offer concise and useful information and advice to centres on the performance of candidates in 2005.

2 Examination Diet 2005: Release of Component Marks at Advanced Higher

Centres are reminded that component marks for each area of performance at Advanced Higher are available from 2005 onwards. This information will be available to centres at notification of awards in August.

3 Examination Diet 2005: Publication of Marking Instructions

All Marking Instructions for this year's examinations will be published on SQA's website by November 2005. These instructions have been finalised at Markers' Meetings and will provide useful reference in preparing candidates. Instructions to markers are also included in the materials.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage teachers and lecturers with experience to apply to become markers, particularly at Intermediate 1, 2 and Advanced Higher, in all languages. Application forms can be obtained from SQA Customer Contact (tel: 0845 279 1000). They can also be downloaded at: www.sqa.org.uk.

4 **Moderation of Standard Grade Speaking**

Moderator visits will again take place in November and December this session. Centres selected for Moderation will be informed beforehand to arrange a suitable time for the Moderator to visit.

5 **Standard Grade and NQ Listening Examinations**

From 2006 Listening material for examinations at Standard Grade and National Courses will be supplied on CD format only. Centres should ensure that they have adequate provision of equipment for this purpose.

6 **Professional Development Workshop, Intermediate 1 & 2**

Following the success of the Higher French PDW in November 2004, a similar workshop will take place on Saturday December 3 in Glasgow, and will focus on assessment and marking issues at Intermediate 1 & 2. French will be the language of access for this event, but it is intended for practitioners in other languages also. Candidate performance in the 2005 examinations will form the basis of discussion and materials selected for use. Application forms were circulated to centres in May, and supplementary forms can be obtained by contacting SQA Customer Contact (tel: 0845 279 1000).

7 **Advanced Higher: Papers 1 & 2**

We wish to advise centres of the following changes:

- ◆ From 2006, Paper 2, Section I (Listening) will be worth **30 marks** and Section II (Discursive Writing) will be worth **40 marks**.
- ◆ From 2007, there will be one inferential question, worth 7 marks, and graded using pegged marks 7-5-3-1-0. (There are currently two inferential questions, each worth 5 marks.)

8 **Advanced Higher: Folio**

Markers indicated the following concerns in the production of the Folio:

- ◆ Candidates should observe the word limit for Folio pieces submitted (500 for each Extended Reading and Viewing piece and 1,000 for the Language in Work submission). Failure to observe these limits will result in the automatic deduction of one pegged mark.
- ◆ Candidates must make it clear that they have studied an accompanying text when referring at length to a film.
- ◆ Text(s) which candidates study in the Extended Reading and Viewing option must be read **in the target language**, and any quotations from such text(s) must also be **in the target language**.

Yours faithfully,



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager



Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager