

Our ref:

19 December 2002

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and Special Schools

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

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Dear Colleague

Home Economics Update
Standard Grade Home Economics – generating prelims.

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Home Economics.

The following update is provided to give further clarification to centres in relation to devising prelim papers for Standard Grade Home Economics. Please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details provided above should require further advice.

Yours faithfully



Alastair MacGregor
Qualifications Manager

Prelims and Appeals Criteria

Centres generating their own prelim papers sometimes draw heavily on past SQA papers for their questions. This is understandable given the difficulty of creating new question papers from scratch. In such cases, however, centres should note that a past paper, in its entirety, will not be accepted as evidence to support an appeal. Such papers are available complete with marking schemes through commercial outlets (ie via Leckie and Leckie) and candidates have access to their contents. Similarly, SQA specimen question papers are not acceptable, unless SQA has indicated otherwise for a specific qualification. However, it is acceptable for centres to use a judicious selection of individual questions drawn from a range of past papers, and suitably adapted, to make up a prelim paper, but sets of questions should not be lifted *en bloc* from past papers.

As a general guide, centres are advised that when devising a prelim paper no more than 25 % of the total mark allocations for each element should be derived from any single past paper. Centres are reminded that the marking criteria for Standard Grade Home Economics were amended as from diet 2000 onwards. If questions from past papers are used in compiling prelim papers, those from papers issued prior to diet 2000 would need to be adapted to take account of the amendments.

Commercially prepared prelim papers can be convenient for centres, but it should be noted that they are not normally prior-moderated by SQA and so can not be guaranteed to be acceptable as the basis of evidence for appeals. Before use, these products and associated marking schemes should be evaluated in terms of their validity, reliability and security in the same way as centre or locally prepared papers. Where candidates have had access to commercially prepared papers, these papers should be regarded in the same way as past SQA papers. Such a paper in its entirety will not be accepted as evidence for appeal purposes if they have been accessible by candidates.

Further information on the above was issued to centres in February 2002 entitled 'Notes of guidance for centres on the Appeals process and on the preparation of evidence to support estimates and Appeals'.

I hope that the above guidance provides clarification as to the requirements for the provision of suitable Assessment Appeals evidence for Standard Grade Home Economics.