

Our ref: GS/PSE/UL/04

15 December 2004

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 Update – Personal & Social Education**

This briefing note is intended to offer practical advice and support on the issues being raised by centre staff with SQA, and should be distributed to those staff responsible for Personal & Social Education.

#### **1 National Qualifications Review**

Centres are advised that the National Qualifications Review of Courses and Units in Personal and Social Education will shortly be commencing, when the Development Officer commences her duties in January 2005. The review itself will consist of extensive consultation and development, the result of which will be to arrive at the best possible content, delivery and mode of assessment for these qualifications.

SQA will notify centres of any outcomes of this review as and when these become available. All centres will have full details on revised Courses and Units well in advance of implementation, which will be no earlier than session 2006/2007.

#### **2 Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator Reports**

SQA would like to encourage all centre staff responsible for PSE to read the Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator Reports for Session 2003/04 and the corresponding examination diet. These reports contain detailed and useful advice and information pertaining to candidate performance, guidance for centres and specific issues relating to individual examination questions. Copies of the reports are enclosed with this letter.

### **3 Folios and Personal Statements**

The Specification for the Folio of Evidence 2004/2005 is now available. All centres have been notified of this by letter and are invited to request the number of copies required for candidates being presented this session.

The Personal Statement will be issued to presenting centres in January 2005. This will be accompanied by Marking Instructions and also the document "*Instructions to Centres on Visiting Moderation for Course Assessment in Personal and Social Education*".

### **4 Moderation**

Courses and Units in PSE will be subject to Visiting Moderation. Course Moderation will take place between 21<sup>st</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

Freestanding PSD Units (previously National Certificate Modules) will also be subject to Visiting Moderation on their completion.

### **5 Marking Instructions**

Centres should note that Marking Instructions for this year's external assessments in PSE are now available through SQA's website. These can be found on the PSE subject page and include the following:

Intermediate 1	Personal Statement Marking Instructions
Intermediate 2	Personal Statement Marking Instructions Question Paper Marking Instructions
Higher	Question Paper Marking Instructions

I hope that the notes above and the materials attached are of help to you. Please note that previous years' update letters are still available on the PSE page of the SQA website. These contain information which may be useful to centres offering PSE for the first time. If you have any queries about these or any other issues relating to Personal & Social Education please contact me at the details given above.

Yours faithfully



Qualifications Manager