

19 December 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 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

The National Qualifications Review of Personal & Social Education is still ongoing, with no final decisions agreed upon as yet. We are therefore not yet in a position to confirm any outcomes of this review. However, centres are reminded that current provision in this subject area will continue as is until the end of session 2006/07.

2 Folios and Personal Statements

The Specification for the Folio of Evidence 2005/2006 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 February 2006. 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*'.

3 Moderation

Courses and Units in PSE will be subject to Visiting Moderation. Course Moderation will take place between 20 March and 9 May 2006.

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

4 Marking Instructions

Centres should note that Marking Instructions for this year's external assessments in PSE are now available through SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These can be found on the PSE subject page.

5 Work Shadowing

Earlier this year, SQA revised provision in the area of Work Shadowing. This resulted in the creation of new Unit descriptors at Access 3 and Intermediate 1. The new Unit codes and titles are as follows:

- ◆ DR3V 09 Work Shadowing Access 3
- ◆ DR3V 10 Work Shadowing Intermediate 1

The full descriptors for these Units can be found on SQA's website.

6 Principal Assessor's and Senior Moderator's Reports

SQA would like to encourage all centre staff responsible for PSE to read the reports of the Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator for Session 2004/05 and the corresponding examination diet. The reports contain detailed advice and information pertaining to candidate performance, guidance for centres and specific issues relating to individual examination questions. These are available in the PSE page of the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk).

In particular, the following key points may be of use to centres:

Principal Assessor's Report

- ◆ The demands of Higher level
- ◆ Underpinning theory and vocabulary at Higher
- ◆ Open-ended questions
- ◆ Key areas for preparation at Higher
- ◆ Presenting candidates for Intermediate 2
- ◆ Familiarity with question format
- ◆ Time frames in action planning

Senior Moderator's Report

- ◆ Work Experience at Intermediate 1
- ◆ Practicing negotiation

I hope that the notes above 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 on the first page of this update letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Qualifications Manager