

21 November 2006

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
(Secondary Schools and Colleges of Further Education)  
Directors of Education  
SCIS  
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications Update — Politics**

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

### **SQA Website**

The subject page is the main source of information on the National Qualification in Politics. It contains the current and past reports of the Principal Assessor, the Course Specification, Specimen Question Paper, previous National Qualifications Updates and Marking Instructions for the 2006 and recent diets. The website address is [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk). On the homepage browser click “Politics” from the drop-down menu and then click “GO”.

### **Examination Diet 2006**

The Principal Assessor, Examining Team and Markers are warmly thanked for continuing to deliver a successful diet. This was the last examination of the current Higher Course, with the new Higher beginning in session 2006/07. The number of candidates remained almost the same as 2005 with 75 sitting the examination. Candidate responses to both papers overall were very good, although there did appear to be fewer very good candidates.

In Paper 1, there were some candidates who displayed excellent skills on analysis, however, there were also some candidates who repeated statistics from the tables without commenting on their significance or relating them to the questions.

In Paper 2, questions on political concepts (A1), models (A3) and socialisation (C7) were done very well, although many candidates let themselves down by not comparing and contrasting as stated in the question.

The full report of the Principal Assessor is available from the Politics subject page of the website.

## **National Qualifications Review**

The Course Specification/Arrangements document and Specimen Question Paper for the new Higher Politics Course is available from the subject page of the website. There are now no Courses available at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 or Advanced Higher. The Units of the former Intermediate 1 and Advanced Higher Courses will remain as free-standing Units. The Units at Intermediate 2 have been revised in line with the new Higher Units.

The first examination at Higher under the new Arrangements will take place in summer 2007. The existing Units will remain current only until 31 July 2007. In terms of Unit passes this means:

- candidates who have completed any Units of the existing Higher Course can contribute these to awards in the new Course
- centres should give candidates who have passed the existing external examination the opportunity to pass any existing outstanding Unit(s) in session 2006/07

To assist centres and candidates, exemplar answers for both papers are available on the subject page of the website.

## **Support Materials**

All comments and queries regarding support materials should be addressed to Marie Morrison at SFEU (01786 892034 or Marie.Morrison@sfeu.ac.uk).

## **The National Assessment Bank**

New NABs are issued in electronic form only and can be downloaded only by SQA co-ordinators. Further details are available from:

Customer Contact Centre  
Scottish Qualifications Authority  
The Optima Building  
58 Robertson Street  
Glasgow, G2 8DQ

Tel: 0845 279 1000 or Fax: 0845 213 5000

E-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk

## **Estimates and Appeals**

All queries on appeals results should be addressed to the Appeals Helpline at [appeals@sqa.org.uk](mailto:appeals@sqa.org.uk).

We have recently updated the *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements* document and this is now available on our website. A hard-copy is being issued to every centre. In particular, the document clarifies subject specific requirement as well as guidance on the general principles for generating Estimates and submitting Appeals.

When generating Estimates and compiling evidence for Absentee consideration and Appeals, you should also refer to:

- Course Arrangements Documents, which include Course Grade Descriptions
- Course Assessment Specifications
- SQA Question Papers, including Specimen Question Papers
- SQA Marking Instructions
- Principal Assessor Reports, which include information on Grade Boundaries
- Exemplification materials
- any other relevant information (eg Course Reports, subject update letters).

These materials, and more, are also available on the subject page of our website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Veronica Curran (0845 213 5498) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Cheyne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'C' at the end.

Larry Cheyne  
Qualifications Manager