

12 January 2012

To: SQA Co-ordinators

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.

### **Understanding Standards Event**

SQA is running an “*Understanding Standards*” event for Higher Politics in SQA offices, Glasgow on Tuesday 07 February 2012.

This all day event is provided free of charge and is an ideal opportunity for those delivering the Course or those considering introducing Higher Politics to familiarise themselves with the standards applied in the marking of Paper 1 and 2. The event will include opportunities to examine scripts submitted by candidates and discuss how candidates can improve their performance. An opportunity will also be taken to present teachers with the proposed changes to the NABs from session 2012-13.

Invitation letters were sent out to all SQA co-ordinators in December. If you have any enquiries about this event or the delegate registration procedures please contact [sqaevents@sqa.org.uk](mailto:sqaevents@sqa.org.uk) or telephone number 0845 213 5580.

### **Examination Diet 2011**

The Principal Assessor, Examining Team and Markers are thanked for delivering a successful diet. The examination was well received overall. There was a significant increase in candidates, from 202 in 2010 to 302 in 2011. This growth reflects the continued increase in S6 school presentations.

The full report of the Principal Assessor, known as the External Assessment Report, is available on the SQA website.

## **National Assessment Bank Materials (NABs)**

NABs for all three Units are in the process of being revised for the 2012/13 session in order to create better articulation with the external exam. Each unit will now have 20 marks rather than the present 30.

In the Political Representation NAB, the analyse and evaluate electoral data outcome two question, will be allocated six marks and the two essay questions seven marks each. In the Political Structures and Political Theory NABs, there will now be two questions each worth ten marks.

The changes to the NABs will be discussed at the forthcoming Understanding Standards event on 07 February.

## **Estimates and Appeals**

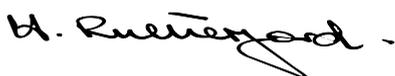
The updated *Guidance on Estimates, Absentees and Assessment* is available on our website.

Centres should note the advice given about raising cut-off scores where split prelims are used. Centres are reminded that SQA past paper questions may be used in Prelims but whole question papers are not acceptable. At Higher level this means that Paper 1 should come from two past papers; Paper 2 should be drawn from three or more.

Centres are also reminded that Marking Instructions and sources of questions must be included with the evidence even when NABs or past SQA questions have been used.

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Duncan Cox (duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully



Hilary Rutherford  
Qualifications Manager