

To: SQA Coordinators
Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
Director of Education
HMIE

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — NQ Product Design

The contents of this update, which provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Product Design Courses at all levels, should be passed to the members of staff responsible for these subjects.

This update contains information about:

- 1 Advanced Higher
- 2 Course Materials Checklist
- 3 Higher Exemplification
- 4 Appointees
- 5 Internal and External Assessment Reports
- 6 Development Visit and Bespoke In-Service Training
- 7 Curriculum for Excellence Update

1. Advanced Higher

Centres **must** ensure that they use the revised Extended Case Study Guidance Document which is available on the SQA website and gives full details of the revised structure and mark allocation for the Extended Case Study.

1.1 Advanced Higher Exemplification

- ◆ Two exemplar Extended Case Studies with accompanying commentaries.
- ◆ Exemplification of all three Units with accompanying commentaries.
- ◆ New exemplar responses from Diet 2011 will be available shortly.

The above exemplars are available on the secure website www.sqa.org.uk/secure and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator.

2. Course Materials Checklist

A new Course Materials Checklist has been created and published on the Product Design page of our website (www.sqa.org.uk). This document highlights important information and essential materials for centres who are delivering Courses in Product Design.

3. Higher Exemplification

The Design Assignments and Question Papers used for this year's marker training have been published on our secure website – you may find this a useful resource.

4. Appointees

Examination Teams

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2010/11. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing working with them during session 2011/12.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, component of the education system in Scotland. Many teachers/lecturers carry out the role in order to further their own understanding of the examination process, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Marker for next year's diet of examinations and have either two (Intermediate 2) or three (Higher and Advanced Higher) year's teaching experience in Product Design, please complete an Appointee Application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return it to am@sqa.org.uk.

Verifiers

We are grateful to the appointees who carry out this role and would encourage others to become involved. Many teachers carry out this role to further their own understanding of SQA Courses, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Verifier and have relevant teaching experience, please complete an Appointee Application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return to am@sqa.org.uk.

5. Internal and External Assessment Reports

These reports will be available from the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk) by the end of October. I recommend that you take time to read these reports as they contain useful feedback on Diet 2011. This includes information about areas in which candidates performed well, together with advice to centres regarding areas which they found more demanding.

6. Development Visit and Bespoke In-Service Training

The following options are available to centres looking for feedback/support:

Development visit

Development visits focus on internal (Unit) assessment and are charged at £100. Please contact bill.crawford@sqa.org.uk or 0131 561 6866 to arrange.

In-Service training

It is possible to request in-service training, subject to the nature of the request and the availability of resources. In most cases, the Principal Assessor or another experienced Appointee would deliver the training.

There is a charge for this service: a 3 hour session (half day) costs £494 and a six hour session (full day) costs £741.

If your centre agrees to the above costs, then the next stage is for us to liaise with the Appointee and the centre/local authority to agree the content of the training and agree on a suitable date. Please note that should any preparation material be required for the event then the duplication of material would be the responsibility of the centre/local authority.

In-Service training is bespoke therefore tailored to individual centres' needs, however, please note: that this training would **not** involve a review of the work that you submitted for external assessment in 2011 and justifying the marks awarded.

If you are interested in requesting this service, please complete a booking form via SQA's website.

7. Curriculum for Excellence Update

Quality Assuring the new National Qualifications

In session 2013/14, new National Qualifications at SCQF levels 1-5 (Access 1 – National 5) will be available to centres. New Qualifications at SCQF levels 6 and 7 (Higher and Advanced Higher) will follow in sessions 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.

Learner achievement will still be credited through assessments, which are marked internally by centres and quality assured externally by SQA, and assessments which are directly marked by SQA.

The existing, robust processes will continue to be used for SQA-marked assessments at SCQF levels 5-7 (National 5 – Advanced Higher) for the new National Qualifications.

SQA will ensure rigorous systems are in place to quality assure assessments at SCQF levels 1-7 (Access 1 – Advanced Higher), which are marked internally by centres.

SQA have reviewed the current quality assurance processes to make sure they are consistent and compatible with evolving quality assurance and moderation practice in the broad general education stage (3-15).

By undertaking this activity, SQA have ensured the quality assurance process that is implemented for the new National Qualifications will fully support the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

Once approved, further details about SQA's quality assurance processes will be published on the CfE pages of the SQA website.

Centres are encouraged to make use of the 'Have your say' facility on the Curriculum for Excellence website. Centres can also subscribe to MyAlerts for Curriculum for Excellence news and updates.

Further information on Curriculum for Excellence and details of how to access 'Have your say' and 'MyAlerts' are located on www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence.

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Yours sincerely



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Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics