

Our ref: TS/RMPS

March 2005

To: SQA Coordinator (Secondary Schools, FE Colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS
Customer Account Managers

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the
delivery of Religious Studies and Religious, Moral
and Philosophical Studies**

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

Diet 2004

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for Diet 2004 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) These include:

- ◆ PA report Intermediate 1
- ◆ PA report Intermediate 2
- ◆ PA report Higher
- ◆ PA report Advanced Higher
- ◆ PA Report Standard Grade
- ◆ Senior Moderator report National Qualification Units
- ◆ Senior Moderator report Standard Grade

Launch Seminars

The Review of National Courses in RMPS is now nearing completion with the new Course and Unit specifications at Higher, Intermediate 1 and 2, the Higher Course Assessment Specification (CAS), the Specimen Question Paper (SPQ) and National Assessment Bank materials distributed at the seminars. These will soon be available on SQA's website. NABs, CAS and SPQs for the other levels are currently undergoing final checks and these too will be available on the website in due course.

Launch Seminars for the Revised Courses were held in Dundee, Elgin, Glasgow and Edinburgh at the end of November 2004. The feedback from these events was generally very positive and our thanks go to all who participated in these events.

Dual Running of the Current and Revised Courses for 2005 – 2006

The National Qualifications Steering Group has agreed to the dual running of Course assessments at all levels for **diet 2006 only**. This is to enable those schools that are delivering the Courses over a two year period to present candidates for the current Course which they began studying in June 2004. Given the increasing number of centres that present candidates for Intermediate 1 and/or Intermediate 2 rather than Standard Grade and those centres where the Higher is taught over S5 and S6, it was felt that a number of candidates would be disadvantaged if the assessments for the current Courses was not available to them. It is expected that only those centres that are delivering these Courses over 2004 – 2006 should enter candidates for the current Course exam in 2006.

Centres are asked to ensure that candidates are entered for the correct Course when entries are made later this year for the 2006 diet.

Reminder — Advanced Higher

A further result of the review of Courses is that the internal assessment of the Advanced Higher Units should be reduced by 50%. It will now be necessary for candidates to complete only **one** essay rather than two. Current NABs can of course continue to be used. This has taken effect from August 2004.

Short Courses Update

In response to demand from centres it has been decided that the short courses *A World of Values* and *Moral Issues in Technology* should remain. These have been revised and are available as free-standing National Units at Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2. The associated Unit codes are:

- ◆ *Moral Issues in Technology* DF10 10 (Intermediate 1) or DF10 11 (Intermediate 2)
- ◆ *A World of Values* DF11 10 (Intermediate 1) or DF11 11 (Intermediate 2)

A new Unit entitled *Spirituality* has also been developed at both Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2. These will be available for use beginning in August 2005 and will be posted on the website in due course.

Appeals

The procedures for stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed during September and October. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following documents prior to submitting appeals:

The Appeals Process: 'A Guide for Centres' (AA0690/3, June 2002)
Notes of guidance for centres on the Appeals process and on the preparation of evidence to support estimates and appeals.

Both documents can be downloaded from SQA's website.

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for appeals this year were:

- ◆ Wrong or incomplete marking schemes.
- ◆ Submission of inadequate NAB evidence ie remediated NAB evidence or evidence which barely met the criteria.
- ◆ Evidence did not cover the complete Course.

Assessment Panel

The RMPS Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in the subject. Assessment Panel members have also been kept in touch with review developments. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

I hope that you find the above information useful. If you would like to discuss any matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0141-242 2343 or e-mail me at tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Tom Stannage
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Sciences