

Special Curriculum for Excellence Update: Higher Media (September 2013)

This Update letter contains important advice and guidance on revisions to the Course requirements for the new Curriculum for Excellence Higher Media Course and will support your planning for its implementation from August 2014.

Key messages

Course assessment

We are developing the specimen question paper and Coursework information based on the following requirements.

- ◆ The case study Component of Course assessment has now been removed from the Curriculum for Excellence Higher Media Course. This mirrors changes made to the National 5 Media Course.

During the development process, it became clear that the three proposed Components of case study, question paper and assignment were leading to over-assessment of candidates. There was overlap between Components and this would lead to a duplication of assessment. The Course assessment was therefore not comparable in demand with other subjects at the same level. In addition, the proposed new formats of the case study and the question paper permitted the use of any key aspects in either Component; one result of this was a duplication of assessment across these two Components.

Further targeted consultation on the nature and aims of Course assessment, and how best to ensure that candidates could accumulate credit for a wide range of knowledge and skills gained in a broad study of media content, led to the decision to remove the case study Component.

- ◆ The Course assessment for Higher Media will therefore now have two externally assessed Components: question paper and assignment, each worth 50% of the available marks.

The question paper will have two mandatory questions, covering contexts, roles and key aspects of media content. Candidates will be required to make reference to different examples of media content in response to each question.

The assignment will have two sections. In section 1, candidates will research and plan media content in response to a brief set by centres; in section 2, candidates will develop their ideas to a level of finish specified in the brief, and reflect on their work. Each section will be worth 25 marks.

Unit assessment

We are developing Unit assessment support packs based on the following requirements.

- ◆ In order to ensure clear articulation between Unit and Course assessment, a number of changes to requirements will be made. Most of these provide minor clarification to Unit requirements; additionally, the following Assessment Standard 'Analysing the role of media' will be added to the *Analysing Media Content* Unit.

Outcome 1 is now as follows:

Carry out detailed and complex analysis of media content by:

- Analysing media content in detail
- Analysing media contexts in detail
- Explaining the relationship between media content and context in detail
- Analysing the role of media
- Applying detailed knowledge and understanding of the relevant key aspects of media literacy

Revised Course requirements for Higher Media will be published by May 2014 after the development of assessment support materials for Higher is complete.