

15 October 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: HMIE, LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Drama Update October 2010

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Drama.

This letter is an update on National Qualifications (NQ) in Drama and contains important information for this current session 2010/2011 and gives an update on new developments and opportunities in Drama for 2011.

The letter is in four sections:

- 1. Review of 2010 examination and planning for 2011 examination**
- 2. External Assessment Timetable for Drama 2010/2011**
- 3. Internal Assessment / External Verification of Drama Units in 2010/2011**
- 4. New Developments in Drama and Creative Industries – Update**

Appendix: Drama Qualifications Map

Please pass a copy of this letter to your Drama teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please contact Joanna Morris (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Humanities, Arts and Business

1. Review of 2010 examination and planning for 2011 examination

External Assessment Reports

These reports are invaluable as a review of the exam diet in Drama in any year and give insight, advice and guidance for presentation of candidates in future years. The 2010 External Reports will be available at the end of October 2010 – see www.sqa.org.uk Drama. These reports focus on each qualification level and highlight areas in which candidates performed well or areas which candidates found demanding. Statistical information on entries and grade boundaries is also contained in the External Assessment Reports.

Appeals

Papers compiled by centres for prelim-type events must:

- ◆ replicate SQA's Question Papers in terms of standard, format, marks allocation, duration and security
- ◆ be drawn from at least three different sources
- ◆ show these sources; centres must provide details of the sources from which the questions are taken (in all instances)

Higher Drama

SQA's programme of support for Drama continued this year with an NQ Update event dedicated to understanding and applying national assessment standards in Drama and, on 2 October 2010, 120 Drama teaching colleagues from across Scotland attended this event. Due to popular demand, SQA is running the same event again on 12 November 2010 for colleagues who were unable to book a place on the first event because of demand. Please see www.sqa.org.uk Drama for further details. Future events are being planned and we will contact you in 2011 when further details are available.

Exemplification Programme

The Drama exemplification programme continues in 2010/2011. This has been a particular success for all levels of Drama and this source of support is available on SQA's secure website (see your SQA Coordinator in school to access this). Published are candidates' marked scripts and these are accompanied by detailed marking commentaries and rationale. By the end of 2010, there will be further exemplification published of candidates' work at Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher levels.

Advanced Higher Drama

There will be a special update letter dedicated to Advanced Higher Drama which will be available in November 2010 and this will give further guidance about approach to the Advanced Higher Drama Question Paper. Please remember that Update letters are despatched to all centres and are also published on SQA website at the same time. See www.sqa.org.uk Drama, Related Information Links, Update Letters for Drama.

2. External Assessment Timetable for Drama 2010/2011

Summary of dates for external assessment for this session:

November 2010	Distribution of : Standard Grade Drama Stimulus Paper Intermediate 1 Themes Intermediate 2 Extracts If you are presenting any of these levels for the first time this session, you will need to request these materials for the 2011 examination: call 0845 213 5554
February 2011 May 2011	Practical examination (Visiting Examination) period starts on 21 February 2011 for Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama. The Visiting Examination period ends on 6 May 2011 . <u>Wednesday 18 May (morning)</u> Question Paper Examinations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 Drama◆ Intermediate 2 Drama◆ Standard Grade Drama (all levels) <u>Friday 27 May (afternoon)</u> Question Paper Examinations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Drama◆ Advanced Higher Drama
For the 2011 Higher Drama Question Paper Examination	The Contemporary Scottish Theatre (CST) text is <i>Bondagers</i> by Sue Glover

www.sqa.org.uk Subject and Qualification Finder – select Drama to access:

- ◆ 2010 Marking Instructions
- ◆ 2010 External Assessment Reports (available end of October)
- ◆ 2010 Internal Assessment Reports (available end of October)

3. Internal Assessment / External Verification of Drama Units 2010/2011

Central Verification of Drama Units will take place in April 2011 and SQA's date for uplift of materials from centres is **24 March 2011**. This is the Verification model where centres submit to SQA a sample of 12 candidates' completed evidence. Centres selected for Central Verification are contacted well in advance and, very soon after the Verification event, all selected centres receive detailed written feedback. Centres selected in 2010 found this feedback both informative and supportive and appreciated the advice and guidance for future years.

The internal assessment of Units is in the domain of centres in terms of administering the NAB assessments, making the assessment decisions and retaining candidate evidence. In order to carry this out two documents are vital: the Unit Specification and the NAB or Assessment Support Pack (ASP) document. Please consult the NABs/ASPs carefully in order to adhere to the guidance given for assessment conditions and candidate evidence requirements.

Please note that all Drama Units are subject to external Verification, including Drama Units which are used on a free standing or stand alone basis. In 2010, SQA carried out Verification visits for the new Unit *Drama: Acting Skills* (F5KY 12) and both Visiting and Central Verification of Drama Units is scheduled to continue in 2011.

The Update letters of 2008, 2009 and 2010 have given details of the many new Units available in Drama as free standing Units which can be used on their own, in groups or in SQA groupings – the National Certificates (NCs) and the National Progression Awards (NPAs). In addition, many new Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) have been published by SQA in the past 2 years. Please see below for a list of available Assessment Support Packs:

ASP	Code
Drama: Acting Skills	F5KY 12
Drama: Movement Skills	F5L1 12
Drama: Voice Skills	F5LF 12
Drama: Theatre Skills in Performance	F5LB 12
Professional Theatre in Context	F5L4 12
Performing Arts Industry: An Introduction	F5TG 12
Technical Theatre in Context	F5L5 12
Technical Theatre Production Operations	F5L6 12
Technical Theatre Workshop Skills	F5L7 12
Theatrical Design	F697 12
Theatre Stage Lighting Operations	F693 12
Theatre Stage Management Operations	F5LC 12
Theatre Stage Sound Operations	F694 12
*Acting through Song	F5L0 12
*Preparation for Audition	D658 12
*Group Dance Performance	F8LC 12

** These ASPs will be available soon*

4. New Developments in Drama and Creative Industries

2007-2010 has been a very exciting time of development of Drama qualifications and two new National Certificates, four new National Progression Awards and many new NQ Units have been developed during that time. Please see Update letters of October 2009 and May 2010 for full details. Full information is available on www.sqa.org.uk as follows:

Click on *Qualifications*

Click on *NCs and NPAs*

Select *Browse NQGA Subjects* from the left-hand menu

Select *Performing Arts* from the list of *NQGA subject areas*

Centres have started to use these new Units and National Progression Awards (NPAs) in imaginative and creative ways as additional or alternative progression pathways in Drama. There are many opportunities for personalisation and choice, diversity and specialisation in addition to cross cutting and interdisciplinary work. If your centre is engaged in any of this activity, please contact us with the details. There are already a number of case studies published on www.sqa.org.uk and we would like to add to this in order to share good practice.

National Progression Awards in Drama

NPA in Acting and Performance	G9KM 46
NPA in Technical Theatre in Practice	G9KR 46
NPA in Musical Theatre	G9KP 46
NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation	G9KT 46

All four of the Drama NPAs, which are at SCQF level 6 (Higher level), comprise 3 Unit credits. This means that the notional delivery time is 3 X 40 hours – 120 hours – which could fit in well with school timetables and college programmes.

Please see the Appendix to this letter – Drama Qualifications Map – for the full picture of what is now available in Drama qualifications.



**New Development
Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5)
Available August 2011**

Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; these Courses also develop broader employability and other transferable skills. Skills for Work Courses are already available in a number of diverse sectors and the **Creative Industries Skills for Work Course** is an exciting new addition to this group of qualifications offered by SQA.

The Creative Industries Course is currently being developed and will be launched in the spring of 2011. This new Course is being designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre.

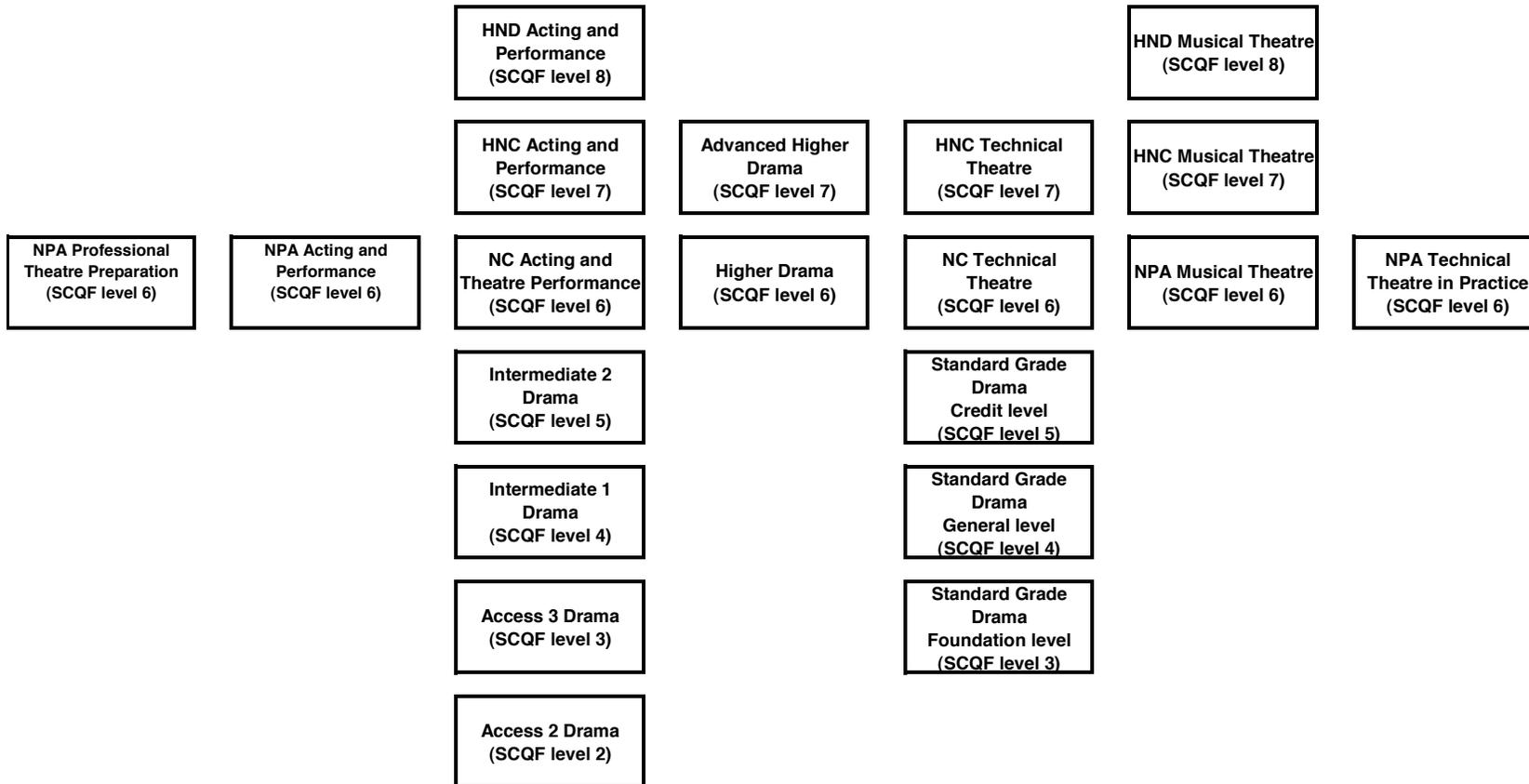
The primary target group for this Course would be school pupils in S3 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross-cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working.

The Creative Industries Course will comprise 4 x 40 hour Units with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building, knowledge and understanding and employability and transferable skills. The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ **Creative Industries: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Skills Development (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: The Creative Process (SCQF level 5)**
- ◆ **Creative Industries: Creative Project (SCQF level 5)**

These Units are ideally suited to a wide range of creative contexts including, eg: a musical production, an art exhibition/display, production of school yearbook, production of a music CD, a drama or dance production, an animated short film, a website or blog, a fashion show, a community project.

Appendix: Drama and Technical Theatre Qualifications Map



HND - Higher National Diploma
 HNC - Higher National Certificate
 NPA - National Progression Award
 NC - National Certificate