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

## **National Qualifications - Drama Update October 2012**

Please pass this to the member staff responsible for Drama

This is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Drama and contains important information for session 2012-2013 and gives details about new opportunities in Drama and Drama related Courses and Units.

Contents:

- 1. 2012-2013 Drama External Assessment Timetable**
- 2. 2012-2013 Assessment Year Planner**
- 3. Guide to Drama Visiting Examinations**
- 4. Current opportunities in Drama and Creative Industries**
- 5. National Event – Creative Industries (Skills for Work) Course Understanding Standards**

Please pass on this information to your Drama teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter with us, please contact Joanna Morris (contact details above) or myself on 0345 213 6811 or email [mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk)

Mary McDonald  
Qualifications Manager  
Humanities, Arts and Business

## 1. 2012-2013 Drama External Assessment Timetable

<b>Early December 2012</b>	Distribution of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standard Grade Drama Stimulus Paper</li><li>• Intermediate 1 Drama Themes</li><li>• Intermediate 2 Drama Extracts</li></ul> If you are presenting any of these levels for the first time this session, you will need to request these materials for the 2013 examination - call 0845 213 5554
<b>February 2013</b>	Visiting Examination (Practical Exams) period starts on 18 February 2013 for Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher
<b>May 2013</b>	Visiting examination period ends on 3 May. <b><u>Tuesday 21 May (morning)</u></b> Question Paper Examinations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intermediate 1 Drama,</li><li>• Intermediate 2 Drama</li><li>• Standard Grade Drama (all levels)</li></ul> <b><u>Tuesday 21 May (afternoon)</u></b> Question Paper examinations for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher Drama</li><li>• Advanced Higher Drama</li></ul>

### Notes:

For the 2013 Higher Drama Question Paper Examination, the Contemporary Scottish Theatre Text is *Passing Places* by Stephen Greenhorn.

As a reminder, for the purposes of Higher Drama, the Arrangements Document states that a Contemporary Scottish Theatre text is 'any post-1900 play which is set in Scotland and/or written by a playwright Scottish by birth or residence and/or commissioned by a Scottish theatre company using a Scots translation, a Scottish idiom or a Scottish setting'.

## 2. 2012-2013 Assessment Year Planner

<b>September 2012</b>	2012 Marking Instructions published on <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>
<b>October 2012</b>	2012 Internal Assessment (Senior Verifier) Reports published
<b>November 2012</b>	2012 External Assessment (Principal Assessor) Reports published
<b>December 2012</b>	2013 Standard Grade Stimulus, Intermediate 1 Themes and Intermediate 2 Extracts distributed to centres
<b>January 2013</b>	2013 Visiting Examination preparation starts: <i>Instructions to Centres</i> document and Candidate Mark Sheets issued
<b>February 2013</b>	Visiting Assessors contact centres to arrange visits  2013 Visiting Examination period starts
<b>March 2013</b>	Verification of Drama Units: SQA uplift date is 26 March for materials from centres selected for Verification in 2013. (Centres are informed in advance if they have been selected)
<b>April 2013</b>	Central Verification takes place and centres selected receive confirmation from SQA that their assessment decisions are in line with national standards
<b>May 2013</b>	2013 Visiting Examination period ends
<b>June 2013</b>	2013 Advanced Higher Devised Drama Themes published

### **3. Guide to Drama Visiting Examinations**

#### **Communication**

Your allocated Visiting Assessor (VA) will get in touch with you in February and please don't delay in getting back to him/her to arrange the date(s) for the VA visit. Contact the VA immediately, and this will help ensure that mutually convenient dates can be arranged. This will also allow you to plan the weeks ahead, in the run up to the Visiting Examination.

#### **Consortia Arrangements**

If you have a candidate(s) who is being prepared for a Drama exam at another school or you have candidates from another school it's really important that SQA knows this at the start of the session, so that forms and Mark Sheets can be issued and accurate allocations of Visiting Assessors can be made. If you and your candidates are part of a consortia arrangement, please contact SQA about this.

#### **Completing Candidate Mark Sheets**

It is crucial that centres complete the information on the Candidate Mark Sheets accurately and fully; candidates' details and eg their acting role or technical role and any other details which the Mark Sheet requires. This helps the Visiting Assessor work efficiently and time isn't wasted on the day.

#### **Planning the Day**

Please see the *Notes of Information for Centres* document which SQA sends to you in February of each year. This tells you how many candidates may be assessed in one day and helps you plan accordingly, taking into account the start and end of the school day. Compile a realistic schedule for the Visiting Assessor based on this.

#### **The Audience for the Performances**

An audience must be present, as relationship with and impact on the audience is a key strand in Drama. However, that audience must be an appropriate one and should be carefully selected by the teacher who must, in turn, take into account the appropriateness of the material for the selected audience; this is the responsibility of the centre.

#### **Presence of Teachers in the Practical Exam**

Where a teacher is present during the practical exam (eg this can be for technical reasons), they are not part of the assessment process and must not enter into dialogue with the VA about the assessment or marks for any candidate. The VA will not discuss or divulge any part of the assessment process or marks awarded.

#### **Presence of Visiting Assessors**

From time to time, it may be that a Visiting Assessor (VA) is accompanied on a school visit by another Visiting Assessor (VA). This is for SQA quality assurance purposes only and the VA allocated to the centre will carry out the visiting examining procedure in the usual way; the other VA is present to observe the process and will not assess/mark candidates' performances.

#### **Absentee Candidates**

At the end of the exam day(s), it's very important that you take time to ensure that the Visiting Assessor has all Candidate Marks Sheets, including those for candidates who are absent or withdrawn; the accuracy of this information is a priority. In the case of an absentee candidate, it's the centre's responsibility to submit a formal request to SQA for a return visit. Visiting Assessors will not make arrangements for return visits.

#### **4. Current Opportunities in Drama and Creative Industries**

##### **Expressive Arts Baccalaureate – Available from August 2012**

The Expressive Arts Baccalaureate is the most recent addition to the Drama and Expressive Arts group of qualifications. The Scottish Baccalaureates have been designed to provide challenging and rewarding experiences for students in S6 in particular and aim to motivate learners and raise the value and status of S6. The Expressive Arts Baccalaureate is based on a coherent group of subjects at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the addition of the Interdisciplinary Project.

For more information please see [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'Browse NQ Subjects', select 'Baccalaureates' (from the left-hand menu)). If your centre is planning to offer this qualification, please contact us to discuss ways in which SQA could support you.

##### **Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (C276 11) – Available from August 2011**

During the past year, there has been a high level of interest in this Course and its potential for school pupils and college students, particularly as centres consider creative possibilities for the Senior Phase. The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of CfE and a great strength of the Course is the number of possible and potential contexts for delivery, either within an individual subject area or in a cross cutting/interdisciplinary setting.

For more information please see [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk), (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'Skills for Work' from the right-hand column, select 'Creative Industries').

To support centres which are offering or interested in offering the Creative Industries Course, SQA is holding a national Understanding Standards Event in November 2012. See Section 5 of this update for full details.

##### **National Progression Awards (NPAs) – Available from August 2010**

##### **National Certificates (NCs) – Available from August 2009**

National Progression Awards (NPAs) are small, flexible qualifications with a specific focus and are made up of groups of SQA National Qualifications (NQ) Units. NPAs can be delivered by schools, colleges or by school/college partnerships.

There are four Drama related NPAs at SCQF level 6: NPA in Acting and Performance, NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation, NPA in Musical Theatre, NPA in Technical Theatre in Practice. In addition, a new NPA has been developed recently: the NPA in Creative Industries (SCQF level 4).

There are two National Certificates (NCs) at SCQF level 6: NC in Acting and Theatre Performance and NC Technical Theatre. A new National Certificate is now available: the NC in Creative Industries (SCQF level 5).

For more information please see [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'NCs and NPAs (NQGA)' in the 'Other Qualifications' column, then select 'Browse NC and NPA Subjects' from the left-hand menu).

## 5. National Event – Creative Industries (Skills for Work) Course Understanding Standards

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 aim to develop broader employability and other transferable skills.

The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has been available for the past year and this national Understanding Standards event is being held to help schools and colleges understand more about the Creative Industries Course, how and where it can be delivered and how SQA can support centres. The Course can be offered in and across numerous subject areas including Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Photography, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre and Production Arts.

Date	Saturday 24 November 2012
Time	All day CPD event (5 hours)
Cost	Free of charge
Venue	Stirling
Audience	Open to all teachers and lecturers who are delivering the Creative Industries Skills for Work Course, or who are interested in introducing the Creative Industries Course in their centre.

On 24 November, we will look at Course content and assessment and listen to a number of colleagues who delivered the Course last session. There will be group discussions to share ideas and good practice and we hope that the day will inspire colleagues to consider the potential and wide range of possibilities that the Creative Industries Course offers.

To date, we have had a very positive response for this event from colleagues in schools and colleges. However, please note that there are still places available. We would like to encourage as many teachers and lecturers as possible to sign up for the first event of its kind for Creative Industries. For more details about this event, please visit [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (hover over the 'About SQA' tab, select 'Events' from the right-hand column, see bottom of the page for info on Creative Industries event). To book a place on the event click on the link at the bottom of the page and then click on the 'Book Now' link on the next page. If you are using the Event Booking System for the first time you will have to register before you can book a place.