

Our ref: NQR/GS

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To SQA Co-ordinator
Head of Centre

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Dear Colleague

NQ Review — Update on the Reviews of Subjects

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the phase 1 and 2 major reviews and other subject investigations that are currently taking place.

We would like to thank you and your colleagues for taking the time to respond to the consultations for the phase 1 major reviews. Once Ministers have approved the reports they will be published on the website. We will also send out paper copies of an executive summary for each subject area.

I have attached as appendices a list of those areas where we plan to:

- ◆ introduce revised Courses for session 2004/05 (appendix 1)
- ◆ introduce revised Courses for session 2005/06 (appendix 2)
- ◆ investigate the best way forward for particular subjects (appendix 3)

In addition, appendix 1 contains key information about specific Courses for implementation in session 2004/05 where we intend to run the old and new version of the exams for one year. SQA are doing this where there are major changes of content in these areas and the fact that these are used significantly as two year Courses. Where we are not dual running exams we will issue transition guidance to help candidates move over from the old to new versions of the Courses in the first year of implementation.

If there are any specific problems with these arrangements or any issues which you wish to raise, please get in touch as soon as possible and we will do our best to address your concerns.

Yours faithfully



Dr Gill Stewart
Business Manager
NQ Product Development Team

Appendix 1

Revised Courses to be introduced in session 2004/05

Subject	Dual running of old and new exams in diet 2005*
Accounting and Finance	No
Administration	No
Craft and Design	No
Computing Studies Intermediate 2	Yes
Computing Higher and AH	No
Information Systems Intermediate 2	Yes
Information Systems Higher and AH	No
Geography Intermediate 1 and 2	Yes
Geography Higher and AH	No
Media Studies	No
Physical Education	No
Psychology	No
RMPS	No
Advanced Higher Applied Mathematics	No

*This column of the table contains key information about specific Courses for implementation in session 2004/05 where we intend to run the old and new version of the exams for one year. SQA are doing this only where there are major changes of content in these areas and the fact that these are used significantly as two year Courses. Where we are not dual running exams we will issue transition guidance to help candidates move over from the old to new versions of the Courses in the first year of implementation.

Revised Courses to be introduced in session 2005/06

SQA are currently revising or reviewing qualifications in the areas listed below for implementation in session 2005/06.

- ♦ Art and Design
- ♦ Music *
- ♦ Sociology
- ♦ Gaelic
- ♦ Gàidhlig
- ♦ Construction
- ♦ Philosophy
- ♦ Early Years Child Care and Education

* Music was originally planned for implementation in 2004/05, but is now scheduled for implementation in 2005/06.

Decisions about whether or not to dual run the old and the new exams in diet 2006 will be made in spring 2004 and centres will be informed at that time.

Subject areas where SQA is carrying out an investigation

SQA is currently carrying out a number of investigations to determine the best approach to a particular issue that has arisen in the original Subject Review Report. SQA will inform centres of the outcomes of these investigations in the autumn.

Please note there will be no changes to Courses in these subjects in 2003/04.

Subject	Aim of investigation
Business Management	To review the Course structures and reduce assessment.
Economics	To review the Course structures and reduce assessment.
Chemistry	To review the cCourses addressing the overall degree of difficulty and the modern day relevance of the Courses.
Modern Studies	To review progression issues between Intermediate 2 and Higher Courses.
Personal and Social Education	To look at the design of the Courses and the market demand given the current uptake.
Politics	To look at the design of the Courses and the market demand given the current uptake.
Travel and Tourism	To determine how best to restructure the Courses to aid progression.
Engineering	To look at the design of the Courses and the market demand given the current uptake.
History	To review the uptake of contexts at all levels and also the role of the extended essay.