

Our ref: AG16.64/NQ Philosophy/CH/MS

25 November 2002

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

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

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Dear Colleague

Qualifications in Philosophy

The contents of this circular should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Philosophy.

Diet 2002

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for diet 2002 can now be found on the SQA web-site – www.sqa.org.uk. These include:

PA report Intermediate 2 Philosophy
PA report Higher Philosophy
PA report Advanced Higher Philosophy
Senior Moderator report National Qualifications

The reports contain feedback on candidate performance in diet 2002 and are of benefit to all teachers and lecturers of Philosophy. Information includes identification of areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well or had difficulty and identification of areas of common misunderstanding. The reports also give recommendations to centres for the future.

Appeals

Stage 1 and 2 appeals are now complete. It was noted during the appeals process that some centres were still submitting invalid evidence. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following documents prior to submitting appeals:

The Appeals Process: a guide for centres June 2002 – AA0690/3

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 the SQA web-site.

The documents clearly indicate what constitutes acceptable evidence. Evidence must be provided for the whole course. Evidence should also meet the standard of the grade being appealed for.

National Qualifications Review

The National Qualifications review of Philosophy will commence in August 2003. A copy of the report arising from initial consultation undertaken with centres at the end of last year is currently on the SQA web-site.

The main objectives of this review are:

- ◆ Reducing the volume of internal assessment and looking at different ways of assessing outcomes
- ◆ Lengthening the time allocated to the Higher Philosophy exam.

Further details about this review will be issued in the new year.

Higher National Qualifications

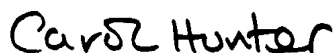
The new HNC/D Social Sciences, which was validated in March 2002 using the pilot HNC/D design rules, is now in its first year of implementation. The expiry date for the old HNC is 31 July 2004. The expiry date for the old HND is 31 July 2005. This means last entries for both the old HNC and old HND will be July 2003. A suite of new units with accompanying exemplar materials has been distributed to all centres that are represented on the HNC/D Social Sciences consortium. Units can also be downloaded from the SQA web-site.

Assessment Panel Social Sciences

This panel is now up and running and will meet twice a year. If you wish to make contact with your representatives on this panel, please contact christine.nicol@sqa.org.uk.

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.

Yours faithfully



Carol Hunter
Qualifications Manager

Copy to Fiona MacKinnon

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