

23 February 2011

To: SQA Co-ordinator (secondary schools,  
special schools and further education colleges)  
Scottish Government  
HMIE  
Directors of Education  
Higher Education Institutions — Department of Education

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of  
National Qualifications in Geology**

Action by Recipient	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Response required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note and pass on
<input type="checkbox"/>	None — update/information only

Contact: Elaine Riley  
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Dear Colleague

**National Qualifications update – Geology**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Geology.

The following items are included:

- 1 National Assessment Bank items – Intermediate 1 and Higher
- 2 Learning and teaching materials – Intermediate 2 and Higher
- 3 External Assessment Reports

**1 National Assessment Bank items – Intermediate 1 and Higher**

SQA will shortly commence work on revising and updating the NAB items for two Geology Units, one at Intermediate 1 and one at Higher. The Units due to have new NABs produced are:

D245 10 Geology, People and Environment (Intermediate 1)  
D8XK 12 Minerals and Rocks (Higher)

Each Unit will have 3 new NAB items produced to replace the existing suite for that Unit. We anticipate that the revised NABs will be published in Autumn this year. Centres will be alerted when the new NABs are available to download from SQA's secure site.

## **2 Learning and teaching materials – Intermediate 2 and Higher**

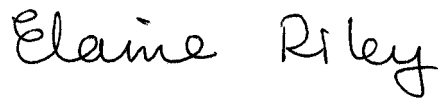
We are currently working on the production of exemplar classroom exercises for Geology Intermediate 2 and Higher. We hope to be able to publish these materials in time for the start of the coming session. More details will be provided as soon as possible.

## **3 External Assessment Reports**

The External Assessment Reports for the diet 2010 examinations in Geology have been uploaded to the relevant subject pages for each level of Geology on SQA's website. Centre staff responsible for delivering Geology, and those who plan to begin delivery, are advised to study these reports as they contain useful information on the strengths and weaknesses in candidates' approach to assessment in this subject, as well as advice to centres on improving candidate performance.

I hope that all of the information above has been of help to you. If you have any enquiries about NQ Geology, please do not hesitate to contact me via the details provided at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Riley". The script is cursive and fluid.

Elaine Riley  
Qualifications Manager