

7 January 2005

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

National Qualifications — Art and Design Update 2005

The attached information is an update for Art and Design teachers with regard to issues which have arisen during the period 2003/2004. It also includes important information on the National Qualifications Review of Art and Design.

The contents of this letter should be passed on to the member of staff responsible for Art and Design.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer di Folco

Jennifer di Folco
Qualifications Manager

Art and Design Update December 2004

1 Standard Grade

Design and Expressive Critical Activity exemplar material is available on the Art and Design secure web page. Please contact your SQA Co-ordinator who will be able to assist you in accessing the material.

Exemplification of Expressive Activity is currently under development and will be available by spring 2005.

2 Higher Level

Following the successful Professional Development Workshop held in Lauder College in 2003, a similar event was held in Edinburgh on 4 December 2004. A CD-ROM was produced to support this event and includes Higher level exemplar material and examiner commentaries. This new CD-ROM was distributed at the event in Edinburgh.

3 Intermediate 1 and 2 Levels

Diet 2004 showed a significant increase in candidate presentations and it is expected that this trend will continue.

Also under development is exemplification of candidate work for Intermediate 2, Paper 2 and the Intermediate 1 Summary which should be available early next year on the secure Art and Design web-page.

In addition, a CD-ROM showing exemplars of Design and Expressive Activity for both Intermediate 1 and 2 levels will be available Spring 2005.

4 Advanced Higher — Art and Design: Research and Appreciation

Research and Appreciation exemplar material is available on the Art and Design secure web page. Once again, please contact your SQA Co-ordinator who will help you to access this material.

On an important note, the Scottish Executive has endorsed a policy for Low Uptake Courses. At Advanced Higher level, if a Course fails to attract 50 candidates a year after five years, it will be reviewed to determine whether it continues to be offered. The Advanced Higher Research and Appreciation Course is in its fifth year of operation (session 2004–2005) and presentation figures for this Course have remained low with no significant increase anticipated and now falls into the Low Uptake category.

Further detail of this report can be found on SQA website under *NQ News*.

5 Advanced Higher — Enquiry Courses

There was a slight increase in uptake for 2004 with more candidates entered for Design Enquiry this year. There were no significant changes with the A-C awards which were on a par with the previous year. About 75% of candidates opted for the Practical Folio submission with the Art and Design Studies option.

6 Project-Based National Courses

(i) Photography for the Media (Higher)

Presentations have increased from 50 entries in 2003 to 115 in 2004 and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. A number of new centres, particularly schools, presented for the first time this year with very good performances. Overall, there was a much improved performance at the top-end in comparison with previous years.

(ii) Visual Arts (Higher)

Presentation figures for this Course have dropped from 20 candidates in 2003 to 13 in 2004 and as such this Course falls into the Low Uptake Policy category and will be subject to review.

(iii) Design (Higher and Intermediate 2)

There was a decline in presentations from 52 entries in 2003 to 42 in 2004 for Higher level. Intermediate 2 levels had four presentations for 2004. These Courses will also be subject to review under the Low Uptake Policy.

7 Principal Assessor's Reports

The Principal Assessor's Reports for Diet 2004 are available on the NQ Art and Design web page. The Reports outline candidate performance and provide detailed information on how submissions can be improved.

8 Retirals and New Principal Assessors

Jim Wylie and Norrie McDonald retired from their posts as Principal Assessors for the Advanced Higher and Higher level Courses at the end of Diet 2004 examinations. Jim and Norrie worked with SQA for many years and many warm thanks go to both of them for their outstanding contribution to Art and Design National Qualifications.

The successors to Jim and Norrie are Angus McLean for the Advanced Higher and Maggie Coggans for Higher level.

Hector McLean has been installed as Principal Assessor for Intermediate 1 and 2 levels — a role previously held by myself.

National Qualifications Review Questions and Answers

Q1. Where do we find out the latest news on the progress and recommendations of the NQ Review in Art and Design?

This is contained in the Art and Design Investigation Report which can be accessed on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk. It can be found on the NQ subject-specific page for Art and Design. At the start of this document you will find the Executive Summary which contains all the action points. In the section *Subject Review Updates and Reports*, you will find a summary of progress with review work which is updated every two months.

Q2. Why has implementation of new revised Courses and Units been delayed until 2006/2007?

New Units and Courses will now start in session 2006/2007, and 2007 will be the first examination diet for these Courses. This will give centres more time to prepare for revised assessment procedures and simplified administrative arrangements.

Q3. What is the impact of this on candidates following Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses?

Candidates currently following Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses in S3 will progress to revised Courses in S5. Candidates currently following Standard Grade or Intermediate Courses in S4 will progress to revised Courses in S6.

Q4. What are the changes to the structure of Courses in Art and Design?

There will be no change to the structure of Courses. Access 3 to Higher will continue to be made up of three 40 hour Units, and Advanced Higher of one 80 hour Unit and one optional 40 hour Unit. There will be changes to the Unit and Course assessments.

Q5. What are the changes to the Unit assessment?

There are changes to the Unit assessments. Further details of these will be provided. Generally, Unit assessment will now be carried out at the end of the Investigation and Development stages of the practical Units, and at the end of the Report in Art and Design Studies.

Q6. What changes are being made to the Course assessment?

Intermediate 1

The written Summary will no longer be submitted to SQA for Course assessment. Each candidate will submit a folio for Course assessment — this includes the final outcome and the final solution.

Intermediate 2 and Higher

Candidates will submit a folio including the final outcome and the final solution for Course assessment and there will be a Question Paper. In the Question Paper, candidates will be required to answer one Part a) and one Part b) question in each section (Visual Arts and Design). There will be no Practical Assignment.

Advanced Higher

Candidates will submit a folio for Course assessment.

Q7. When will all the new Course and Unit Specifications be available?

Revised Course and Unit Specifications for all levels of Art and Design — Access 3 to Advanced Higher — will be published on SQA's website in Spring 2005, giving a full year for preparation before new arrangements start.

Q8. What are the next steps?

National launch seminars, which will be held at venues throughout Scotland, are scheduled for November 2005. There will be an invitation to all centres to send a representative to one of the events. At the events, Course and Unit Specifications, Specimen Question Papers, NABs and exemplification materials will be available.

Q10. How will information be communicated in the meantime?

- ◆ SQA's website — NQ Review news and updates
- ◆ Art and Design Subject Update Letters
- ◆ Local Authority and college contacts. We plan to invite two representatives from each Local Authority and representatives from colleges to attend NQ Review Art and Design briefing sessions in February 2005 and they will receive information to disseminate to teachers and lecturers. In Spring 2005, there will be a follow-up Art and Design Subject Update letter which will contain full details of the presentations given at the briefing sessions.