

September 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
(Secondary Schools and Colleges of Further Education)  
Directors of Education  
SCIS  
Customer Account Managers

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

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Dear Colleague

### **National Qualifications Update — Classical Studies**

The contents of this letter should be passed to the members of staff responsible for Classical Studies and/or History. As Classical Studies does not involve translation and the question papers are entirely in English information, the subject may be of interest to History teachers.

### **SQA Website**

The subject page is the main source of information on National Qualifications in Classical Studies. It contains the current and past reports of Principal Assessors and the Senior Verifier, Course Specifications/Arrangements documents and specimen paper, previous National Qualifications updates and marking instructions for the 2010 and recent diets. The address of the website is **[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)**.

### **Update on the 2010 diet**

Principal Assessors and their examining teams are thanked for their efforts in delivering a successful diet. The full reports of the Principal Assessors, now known as the External Assessment Reports, will appear on our website shortly. These include summary statistics on entry figures, pass rates etc.

### *Advanced Higher*

Responses were generally very satisfactory with over 95% of candidates achieving grade A-C.

Flyleafs and notes for the submission of candidate's Dissertations are available only on the secure part of the SQA website via SQA Co-ordinators.

### *Higher*

The number of candidates held steady and results were again very encouraging with an A-C pass rate of 80.1%.

Examples of marked answers from a previous year's diet are now available on the Understanding Standards section of the SQA website – [www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk)

### *Intermediate*

In Intermediate 1 all candidates passed. Results in Intermediate 2 were very pleasing with over 50% of the candidates achieving an 'A' pass.

### *Standard Grade*

There was much evidence of good practice in papers at all three levels.

### **Estimates and Appeals**

The document *Guidance on Estimates, Absentees and Assessment* is available on our website.

Centres are reminded that prelim papers should follow the structure of the actual exam as closely as possible. Marking Instructions and sources of questions must be included with the evidence even when NABs or past SQA questions have been used.

All queries on appeals should be addressed to the Appeals Helpline at **appeals@sqa.org.uk**.

### **Markers**

SQA is again grateful to those who marked in the 2010 diet. It is generally recognised that marking for SQA is excellent in-service, and can be a major factor in promoting improved performance in individual centres.

If you wish further clarification of any points in this letter, please contact either Duncan Cox (**duncan.cox@sqa.org.uk**) or myself at the above address.

Yours faithfully



Stan da Prato  
Qualifications Manager