

30 January 2012

To: SQA Co-ordinators

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Dear Colleague

Please pass this email to the member of staff responsible for English in your school or college.

The following is an update on National Qualifications (NQ) in English:

1. Understanding Standards website re-launch, February 2012

www.understandingstandards.org.uk

The site should be more user friendly than the previous version. More examples of folio writing at Intermediate 1, 2 and Higher level are being added to the English pages of the site (in addition to the material on SQA's secure site). These examples from the 2011 diet will be available for practice marking.

Please also note the changes to word limits for writing folios detailed in the August 2011 update letter www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/2459.html

2. 'Comparison question' Higher English Close Reading

You are reminded that the final question in the Close Reading section of the Higher English question paper is being revised with immediate effect. From 2012 onwards this question will no longer require candidates to state a preference as to which passage was better, more stylish etc. It will follow the format of the recently replaced Specimen Question paper, which also has revised marking instructions. Please see the Announcements page for Higher English <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/39872.html#announcement5> for further details.

3. 2011 External Assessment Reports

These (formerly called Principal Assessor reports) are now on the English pages of SQA's website and will be useful in preparing candidates for examinations. You are also reminded about the Estimates calculator which is very useful for doing the weighting calculations at Intermediate and Higher. Again, this can be found on the English pages of the website.

4. Understanding Standards Advanced Higher English Event

The materials from the Advanced Higher English Understanding Standards event at Stirling on 28 January will be available on SQA's secure website soon, accompanied by commentaries and marks.

Finally, centres are reminded that the Unit *Communication (NC)* EE3T 12 has been replaced by FA1W 12. The original Unit (EE3T 12) will lapse in July 2012. You can download the Unit Specification using the NQ Unit Search facility on SQA's website.

Yours faithfully



Alan R Wilson
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Humanities, Arts and Business