

Autumn 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators
LEA
Directors of Education
Customer Accounts Managers
All Centres

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

Contact Name – Lesley Clark at Glasgow
Direct Line – 0845 213 5616
E-mail – lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update — Product Design

The contents of this update, which provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Product Design Courses at all levels, should be passed to the members of staff responsible for these subjects.

Zoe Anderson — Qualifications Officer, Product Design

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome our Qualifications Officer for Technical Education, Zoe Anderson. Zoe's contact details can be found at the end of this update.

General Issues

CPD Events

We will be holding the following CPD event this session:

◆ **Higher Product Design Professional Development Workshop**

This event, which this year is focused on the Question Paper, is being held in Stirling on Saturday 13 November 2010. For more information and a registration form please go to www.sqa.org.uk/pdws

Appointees

Examination Teams

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2009/10. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing working with them during session 2010/11.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, component of the education system in Scotland. Many teachers carry out the role in order to further their own understanding of the examination process, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Marker for next year's diet of examinations and have at least three year's experience of teaching in the relevant subject and level, please complete an appointee application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return it to am@sqa.org.uk.

Verifiers

We are grateful to the appointees who carry out this role and would encourage others to become involved. Many teachers carry out this role to further their own understanding of the Courses, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Verifier and have at least three year's relevant experience, please complete an appointee application form, which can be downloaded from the appointee management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return to am@sqa.org.uk.

External and Internal Assessment Reports

These reports will be available from the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk) by the end of October. I recommend that you take time to read through these reports as they contain useful feedback on Diet 2010. This includes information about areas in which candidates performed well, together with advice to centres about areas which they found demanding.

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Product Design

Design Assignments

Design Assignments for the 2011 Intermediate 2 and Higher Product Design Examinations will be issued to schools at the end of January 2011. Numbers and levels issued are based on entry figures available in December 2010. Please ensure that you have your entries in by this date as otherwise you will not receive copies of the Design Assignments.

The Design Assignment and Question Paper are used together to determine the Course grade. Candidates must, therefore, attempt the Design Assignment that matches the level of Question Paper that they will sit. It is essential that candidates attempt the correct Design Assignment as the mark for a Higher Design Assignment cannot be combined with the mark for an Intermediate 2 Question Paper or vice versa.

It is also important that candidates write their name and centre on each sheet (maximum 8) of their Design Assignment. Sheets should be numbered to show the total number submitted and the sequence.

Visits to Central Marking 2010

We invited Local Authorities to nominate teachers interested in observing this years' Higher Product Design Central Marking.

The feedback from this was excellent and we hope to repeat it in Diet 2010.

Estimates

Please remember that estimates should be based on estimated performance in **both** the Question Paper and the Design Assignment. This can be done by adding the mark for a Prelim paper to an estimated mark for the Design Assignment. More information can be found in the Course Arrangements document and the Course Assessment Specification which are available from the SQA website.

Visiting Verification

Visiting Verification continues to be very successful with many centres benefiting from immediate feedback and advice from the visiting Verifier. For this reason we intend to continue providing a mixture of visiting and central Verification during session 2010/11.

Advanced Higher

A revised Guidance Document has been published for use from Diet 2011. This document is available on the SQA website and gives full details of the revised structure and mark allocation for the Extended Case Study.

Two exemplar Extended Case Studies with accompanying commentaries are available on the secure website.

In addition to this, new exemplification of all three Units with accompanying commentaries is available on the secure website.

Should you require any further information regarding the content of this letter or any other matter relating to Product Design Courses, please contact Zoe or me using the contact details provided.

Lesley Clark
lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk

Qualifications Manager
0845 213 5616

Zoe Anderson
zoe.anderson@sqa.org.uk

Qualifications Officer, Product Design,
0845 213 5477

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'C'.

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager
Science and Technology