

To: SQA Coordinators
Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
Directors of Education
HMIE

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

The contents of this update provide information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Art and Design, and should be passed to the members of staff responsible for this subject.

Art and Design Appeals

Intermediate 2 and Higher

Centres are reminded that for Art and Design Intermediate 2 and Higher level an appeal is for the **overall Course award** therefore **evidence for the Question paper is mandatory in all cases**. It is not possible to appeal for either the *Question Paper* or the *Folio* in isolation.

Centres must ensure that when requesting an appeal for Intermediate 2 and Higher, the following is submitted:

Written evidence

- ◆ Submitting written work for evidence is mandatory in all cases and must be included even if the candidate performed at a higher level in the SQA exam than in the prelim.
- ◆ All work submitted must be marked by the Centre prior to submitting evidence.

- ◆ Written evidence would normally be a prelim and generally, those that are close to the SQA format both in standard of questions and time allocated, tend to be the more successful in achieving an upgrade.

Instrument of Assessment

- ◆ A copy of the question paper which the candidates are answering must be included.
- ◆ If using questions from past papers, these must be drawn from a minimum of three years' of sources and the years must be identified on the appropriate form.
- ◆ The standard and quality of the questions asked must have the same rigour as an SQA Question paper. A simplified question does not test the candidates to the same level of difficulty and is therefore less reliable to be considered for use as an upgrade.

Marking instructions

- ◆ It is essential that these are included with the evidence.
- ◆ The marking instructions must relate directly to the images to which the candidates have responded. Comments such as 'as per SQA marking instructions' or 10/10 – good, to 1/10 – poor, are not suitable as marking instructions.

Cut off scores

It is acceptable to tick the box which states that 'notional' cut off scores have been used:

A - 70%, B - 60%, C - 50%.

Intermediate 1

The *Folio* which is assessed externally and for which the evidence is produced over a period of time is likely to represent the candidate's best work. The generation of alternative evidence for a component assessed in this way is likely to be impractical.

Centres should submit any additional material, eg a Summary from the Art and Design Studies Unit, which is likely to strengthen the evidence already submitted.

Standard Grade

Centres are reminded that additional evidence is not mandatory for the Critical Activity component. However additional evidence is mandatory for the Expressive Activity component (eg class-work and/or prelim evidence).

Further information on Appeals is given in the Estimates, Absentees, and Assessment Appeals binder which is on the SQA website.

Understanding Standards Website

The Art and Design pages on the Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk) contain valuable examples of candidates' work at Standard Grade, Intermediate and Higher levels. These examples are intended to provide you with an opportunity to gain an insight into the marking process by showing you candidates work, giving you the opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding and, ultimately, to give you a better understanding of

national standards and how to apply these to your own marking. Teachers are strongly advised to access this valuable material.

We are currently in the process of producing new material for exemplification on the Understanding Standards website for Higher and Intermediate 2 levels.

Advanced Higher Art and Design Understanding Standards event

On 8 March an Advanced Higher Understanding Standards event took place in Stirling, and was attended by 80 teachers/lecturers from across the country. The event included presentations, practical workshops, and a showcase of exceptional folio work from various Advanced Higher candidates. Feedback from the event was extremely positive, and presentation material has been uploaded to the secure website. Details on how to access this material is provided in the **SQA Secure Site** section of this letter.

Candidate gallery

New Advanced Higher Art and Design material has been added to the Candidate Gallery on the AH Art and Design page of our website www.sqa.org.uk. The gallery contains images of excellent practical work from a selection of 2010 Advanced Higher candidates, some of which was on display at the Understanding Standards event in March.

SQA Secure Website

As part of our commitment of continuing support for teachers we have exemplification on the SQA Secure Website – www.sqa.org.uk/sqasecure. SQA coordinators in centres have access to the secure website and teacher/lecturers are advised to contact their SQA Coordinator to access the material. The Presentations from the Advanced Higher Understanding Standards event which took place in March have been uploaded and are located via the NQ Art and Design page.

Skills for Work Creative Industries

On 25 March a launch event was held in Oran Mor for the new Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (SCQF level 5). The event was attended by 120 teachers/lecturers from across the country.

Delegates enjoyed a Musical Theatre introduction from HN students at Coatbridge College and listened to pupils from Castlebrae Community High School speaking about their experiences of piloting two of the new Units. An exhibition of creative work from candidates across the country was also on display.

The new Creative Industries Course provides an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes sectors such as: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media, Music, Sound Production, Theatre Production.

For more information visit the Skills for Work Creative Industries webpage on www.sqa.org.uk.

Fashion and Textiles event

On 1 April a Fashion and Textiles event took place in Stirling.

The event was aimed at Home Economics and Art and Design teachers and focused on best practice as well as providing inspiration through a mix of presentations and practical workshops. The event also featured a showcase of fashion and textile work.

Curriculum for Excellence

Centres can subscribe to MyAlerts for Curriculum for Excellence news and updates. Details of how to access this are located on www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence.

I hope you find the contents of this update letter helpful. Should you require any further information regarding the content of this letter or any other matter relating to Art and Design Courses, please contact Lynn Wallwork or myself using the contact details provided.

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Yours sincerely



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