

Our ref: MB/Corr

15 December 2003

To: Principal Teachers and Teachers of Art and Design

cc: Directors of Education, SCIS
Scottish Executive Key Stakeholders
Teaching Associations, SQA Co-ordinators (all centres)
SQA Customer Account Managers.

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Art and Design Update 2003

This newsletter updates centres on issues that have arisen during period 2002/2003 and highlights important information for this current session 2003/4 for National Qualifications in Art and Design. The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Art and Design.

I am pleased to advise you that Jennifer di Folco will be joining the team in January to manage National Qualifications in Art and Design. She will be working with May Byrne.

- 1. Standard Grade**
- 2. Higher**
- 3. Advanced Higher**
- 4. National Qualifications Review**
- 5. Project Based National Courses**
- 6. Principal Assessor Reports**
- 7. Distribution of component marks**
- 8. Key Submission/Distribution Dates**
- 9. Retirals and New Principal Assessor**

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1. Standard Grade

Exemplar Material for the Critical Activity

Exemplar material, selected from Diet 2003 examinations, of Design and Expressive Critical essays at General and Credit levels will be available early January on the Art and Design subject page on our website: www.sqa.org.uk. This will be accompanied by a Teacher's Guide.

2. Higher

A Professional Development Workshop on candidate performance in Higher Art and Design for diet 2003 was held in Lauder College on 25 October 2003. Feedback indicated that the conference was a great success with 150 delegates participating in the day. The Professional Development Workshop pack produced for the conference can be purchased via our website.

We will be distributing all the exemplar material displayed at the conference, together with commentaries on marking, on a CD Rom — to be distributed to centres in February 2004.

We also plan to provide support, through moderation activities and further staff development, to centres for preparing candidates for Higher in 2004. The focus will be on Design with details being issued early in 2004.

3. Advanced Higher

Exemplar Material for Research and Appreciation Course

Exemplar material, selected from Diet 2003 examinations will also be available early January on the Art and Design web-page.

4. National Qualifications Review

Consultation papers, distributed to all centres, are due for return by 17 December, 2003. The main changes being proposed relate to the assessment approaches for both units and the external course assessment. Analysis of feedback will begin in January.

5. Project Based National Courses

Project Based National Courses are available as follows:

- ◆ Visual Arts — Higher (C06D 12)
- ◆ Photography for the Media — Higher(C06A 12)
- ◆ Design — Higher (C01A 12)
- ◆ Design — Intermediate 2 (C01A 11)

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Each of these courses follow a similar format where the course assessment comprises of Planning, Development and Evaluation with the work produced in class time being submitted to SQA for external marking.

The Arrangements and External Assessment specification can be accessed via the web-site.

Please note that minor amendments were recently been made to the External Assessment specifications for Visual Arts and Design and are applicable from August 2003.

6. Principal Assessor Reports

Reports covering the 2003 examinations at all levels are available on the SQA web-site. These reports discuss overall performance of candidates and give detailed feedback on how submissions can be improved.

7. Distribution of component marks

The breakdown of component marks for the external assessments in the National Courses in Art and Design was distributed by e-mail to centres at the end of August. The intention was to provide a breakdown to help identify how candidates performed in each area of the external assessment and has been welcomed by centres.

8. Key Submission/Distribution Dates for 2004

Please note that the key submission and distribution dates are enclosed for information. They should be read in conjunction with the Operational Guide for Schools 2003/4.

9. Retirals and New Principal Assessor

Maurice Jackson, Qualifications Manager for Art and Design, for many years retired at the end of October.

Jim Sheridan, Principal Assessor for Standard Grade, who also worked with SQA for many years retired at the end of Diet 2003.

Janey Broughan has taken on the role of Principal Assessor for Standard Grade

Yours faithfully

Margaret Brownlie-Marshall, Business Manager
National Qualifications (Creative and Aesthetic Team)

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