

9 April 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinators
(secondary schools and further education colleges)

Cc: SCIS
SQA Business Development Managers
Director of Education
HMIE

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
Note — update/information only

Contact: Jennifer di Folco at Dalkeith
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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

The contents of this letter should be passed to a member of staff responsible for the delivery of NQ Art and Design.

This newsletter is intended to offer further support and guidance about additional exemplification available to centres on SQA's secure website, along with information on a new National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6 and two new National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6 that have recently been launched.

It is hoped that the information is useful to teachers.

Jonathan Gillies was appointed to the post of Qualifications Coordinator on 1 April 2009. I wish Jonathan every success in his new post and thank him for all his support to Art and Design. In the meantime, please forward all Art and Design queries to me at the above address.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer di Folco
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications — Art and Design

National Qualifications — Art and Design update

1 Exemplification — SQA’s secure website

As part of our commitment of continuing support for teachers/lecturers we have published updated exemplification on SQA’s secure website. The update includes valuable examples of candidate’s Design Study Reports and Visual Arts Study Reports at Advanced Higher level.

Also available are candidates projects submitted for external assessment for the Higher Photography for the Media Course to help centres gain a better understanding of national standards.

Teachers are strongly advised to access this valuable material on SQA’s secure website.

2 Key submission/distribution dates 2009

The key submission dates for 2009 was issued to all centres in December 2008 along with Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment and Design Brief/Evaluation forms.

Currently SQA issue the Standard Grade Titles for the examination in letter format in the December distribution and we will continue to do so. However, centres are reminded that we are no longer issuing the Standard Grade question paper (in paper format) to centres. Instead, the question paper is published on the Art and Design page of SQA’s website (www.sqa.org.uk) and can be downloaded from there.

3 Low uptake

Centres are reminded that the Project Based National Course – Design Intermediate 2 level will no longer be available after the 2010 diet of examinations. The Course is subject to the low uptake policy and will be removed from the NQ catalogue. The Units that make up the Course will remain in the catalogue and can still be delivered as free-standing Units.

The Project Based National Courses – Design Higher level and Visual Arts Higher level, as previously informed, will be removed from the NQ catalogue after the 2009 diet of examinations. The Units that make up the Course will remain in the catalogue and can still be delivered as free-standing Units.

For further information see the low uptake letter issued to centres on the 11 December 2007.

4 Understanding Standards website

The Art and Design pages on the Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk) will shortly be updated to include valuable examples of candidates’ written work at Higher level. The examples include candidate responses to the Higher question paper. This is an interactive site and the user is invited to view and assess the work, submit a mark and then have the opportunity to call up comments about the work, and the actual mark given by the examiner. Centres are encouraged to access this material.

5 Visits to Central Marking 2009

As part of SQA's open and transparent policy we have invited Local Authorities to nominate teachers interested in viewing this years' Central Marking procedures from Intermediate to Advanced Higher level.

The events give teachers a valuable opportunity for personal development and have proved to be very successful in previous years.

Due to limited capacity at the events, requests to visit our central marking procedures must be submitted via your Local Authority Quality Improvement Officer. Teachers/lecturers are advised to contact your Local Authority Quality Improvement Officer to request attendance.

6 NQ Photography Units

A selection of NQ Photography Units have recently been updated to ensure that they are fit for purpose. The newly revised Units have been successfully validated and are available for immediate delivery. The following Units have been refreshed:

F51N 11	Photography: Portraiture Skills
F51P 12	Photography: Portraiture Skills
F51R 12	Photography: Basic Product Imaging
F51V 12	Photography: Basic Studio Techniques
F51S 12	Photography: Camera Techniques
F51T 12	Photography: Magnified Image Skills

Centres can view the refreshed Unit specifications from the NQ Unit search facility available on our website:

www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/551.html

Plans are in place to refresh further NQ Photography Units in the NQ catalogue along with the Higher Photography for the Media Course during 2009. Further details of the planned refresh will follow in the autumn update letter.

7 Advanced Higher Art and Design

Centres are advised to ensure that candidates are entered for the appropriate Advanced Higher Course. Appendix A details the Advanced Higher codes applicable to each Course.

Please note that there is now a revised Advanced Higher Statement of Intent (SOI) which is available for download from the Art and Design page of SQA's website. A separate Statement of Intent for both the Expressive Enquiry and the Design Enquiry is available.

Guidance documents for both the Expressive Enquiry and the Design Enquiry have also been uploaded to the Art and Design page to assist teachers/lecturers and candidates in the completion of the SOI.

The Statement of Intent was not distributed to centres in December. Centres are advised to access the document from the Art and Design page of SQA's website.

8 Inspirational Artworks

Around 250 exceptional artworks were recently displayed in Edinburgh at the Scottish Parliament and the National Gallery of Scotland, and in Glasgow at the People's Palace.

Feedback from the exhibitions has been extremely positive about the talent emerging from Scotland's schools and colleges and I'd like to thank all teachers and candidates who supported the projects.

Plans are currently being finalised to create a 'lending library' of the artworks on display at the exhibitions. School and colleges will be given the opportunity to loan a selection of the artworks in order that they can be used as teaching aids within the department. Full details will follow once they have been finalised.

On-line galleries of the artworks that were on display are available on our website:

www.sqa.org.uk/art2008

9 The use of photographs in Art and Design

The Arrangements for National Qualifications in Art and Design at Advanced Higher, Higher, Intermediate 1 and 2 clearly state that in the Expressive Activity good quality observational drawings are expected as part of the candidate's response to the folio's theme. These studies should be produced using a variety of media (at least two) and produced largely from observing the stimulus, whether an inanimate object, the figure, the natural landscape, etc, from first principles. This means that the candidate would respond to the stimulus by working directly from it.

However, as National Qualifications have developed, it has become apparent that many centres are addressing new technology and have encouraged their candidates to support this aspect of their folio work through the use of photography.

SQA acknowledges that, where this allows the candidate to engage with the creative process in a more meaningful way, then this can only be a positive development. The taking of photographs by the candidate; directing photo shoots where the candidate is the subject; the selection of visual stimulus for further study, are all positive indications that the candidate is truly engaging with the source. However, we would still expect the candidate to produce some drawing from direct observation of the subject matter. This approach requires the requisite skills which are highly valued and desirable.

Work which simply amounts to copying 'celebrity images' from glossy magazines is considered to be poor practice and will be disadvantaged since there is a limited value in this approach. All too often the development stage which follows lacks focus and clear direction as a result.

The overuse of photographic images, particularly where it does not clearly demonstrate the candidate's drawing abilities, and which hinders the development of the creative process, will not be eligible for the full range of marks.

Markers will continue to assess folios in a positive manner, acknowledging the strengths of each individual candidate.

10 National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6

A new National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6 has recently been launched for implementation in August 2009. The National Certificate is primarily aimed at colleges, although schools may be interested in delivering a selection of the new Units as free-standing Units.

The National Certificate aims to provide a robust award of practical and related theoretical content which meets the needs of candidates, centres and a variety of identified progression pathways. Further information can be found on the Art and Design page of SQA's website.

11 National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6

Two new National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6 have recently been launched for implementation in August 2009.

The National Progression Awards each contain three mandatory Units and are designed as a creative art and design based skills development programme which aims to provide candidates with a range of complementary digital media based art and design skills. The award structure includes a focus on the development of animation sequences, video and web based digital media content for art and design applications. Further information can be found on the Art and Design page of SQA's website.

Appendix A

Advanced Higher codes

Expressive

Option 1

Advanced Higher — Expressive Enquiry with Design Activity

- ◆ C224 13 Course code
- ◆ DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- ◆ DV38 13 Art and Design: Design Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher — Expressive Enquiry with Visual Arts Study

- ◆ C224 13 Course code
- ◆ DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- ◆ DV3G 13 Art and Design Studies: Visual Arts Study

Design

Option 1

Advanced Higher — Design Enquiry with Expressive Activity

- ◆ C225 13 Course code
- ◆ DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- ◆ DV37 13 Art and Design: Expressive Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher — Design Enquiry with Design Study

- ◆ C225 13 Course code
- ◆ DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- ◆ DV3J 13 Art and Design Studies: Design Study