

8 November 2010

To: SQA Coordinator (Secondary Schools, FE Colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the
delivery of National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare**

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

Contact: Mary Hainey at Glasgow
Direct Line: 0845 213 5502
E-mail: mary.hainey@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare.

Diet 2010

The External Assessment Reports, formerly known as the Principal Assessor Reports, for Diet 2010 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These include:

- External Assessment Report Higher Early Education and Childcare
- External Assessment Report Higher Play in Early Education and Childcare
- Internal Assessment Report SfW: Early Education and Childcare

Appeals

The procedures for Stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed during September. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following document prior to submitting appeals:

- ◆ *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements*

The document – *Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on Evidence Requirements* has undergone revision and has been posted on the SQA website. The revised version clarifies what subject specific evidence is required when submitting an appeal for question paper based Courses.

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for appeals this year were:

- ◆ Wrong or incomplete evidence.
- ◆ Prelims which do not replicate the format of the final exam.
- ◆ Inconsistencies in marking.
- ◆ Leniency in applying marks and grades.
- ◆ Lack of evaluative evidence.

All of the above issues have been reported in previous update letters and External Assessment Reports; however, similar problems were replicated in 2010. We would also take this opportunity to remind Teachers/Lecturers that ½ marks are not acceptable.

It is important to emphasise the clarity required when identifying sources. Centres must ensure that details of the sources of each prelim question are included with Appeals evidence. For example: Question 2 – SQA QP 2007 – Paper 1 or Section 1.

Centres should note that the above problems will disadvantage candidates and staff are encouraged to read the External Assessment Reports.

Marking Instructions

The Question Papers and finalised marking instructions for Diet 2010 Course assessments are now on SQA's subject specific web pages.

Early Education and Childcare Higher

Candidates performed very well this year with over 50 % of candidates achieving a Grade A or B. Centres were praised for the preparation of candidates on exam techniques.

Play in Early Education and Childcare

This was the first year using the revised specification and it was felt that the clearer marker guidance and the inclusion of the new case study had supported both candidates and centre staff. Some Centres chose to continue using the 'Jack' case study and the revised marking specification. Dual running of the 'Jack' and 'Ruaridh' case studies had been agreed by SQA but for one year only. Please note that the "Jack" case study is no longer valid and cannot be used this year.

An SQA Academy Event is being held on 15 November 2010 and will be for all Project Based assessed courses. This will give Teachers/Lecturers an opportunity to discuss the requirements of the courses, changes to Play in Early Education and Childcare (Higher) and Care Practice (Higher), internal marking and estimates, and advice on submitting evidence for external assessment. Full details of all events can be found on the Scotland's Colleges website (www.scotlandscollages.ac.uk)

Skills for Work: Early Education and Childcare

SQA are holding a Support Network Event on 4 November 2010 for Skills for Work Early Education and Childcare and Health and Social Care. This intended target audience for this event is both centres who currently deliver these Courses along with any centres who are interested in applying for approval. The aim of this event is to provide centre staff with an opportunity to share ideas on teaching/learning approaches to the delivery of SfW Courses in Care along with good practice. Full details of all events can be found on the SQA's events website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/2961.html>)

Please note that SQA provides an e- portfolio SQADesktop for all candidates undertaking a Skills for Work Course. Training and Support for tutors wishing to use Desktop with their classes is available. For more details and registration please access the Desktop website: - <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/36536.html>)

PDA in Education Support Assistance (SCQF Level 6)

The Qualifications Manager with responsibility for this Award is now Mary Black and she can be contacted on 0845 213 5451 or mary.black@sqa.org.uk

Assessment Panel

Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers. Please note that SQA is looking for new members to join the Assessment Panel. If you think you may be interested and you would like further information please email me.

Becoming a Marker

If you are interested in becoming a marker in Early Education and Childcare, please visit the Appointee Management section of the SQA website or call our Marker Helpline 0131-561 6825 and we will send a form to you. To become a Marker, we normally ask that you are in your third year of teaching the Course. We welcome applications throughout the year and, where a suitable vacancy exists, we may be able to offer an appointment for this year. The Philosophy Courses are Centrally Marked – this entails the marker marking scripts over one extended period in the same venue. In a number of subject areas we have had recent examples where the results in centres have improved dramatically after a member of staff joined the marking team. The experience of marking helps to increase the awareness of the demands of Course assessment and is proven to be excellent professional and personal development.

I hope that you find the above information useful. If you would like to discuss any matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0845 213 5502, or e-mail me at mary.hainey@sqa.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Mary Hailey

Mary Hailey
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Sciences and Care