

10 April 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary schools

Cc: Directors of Education
Customer Support Managers
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HMIe

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Dear Colleague

Revisions to Standard Grade Home Economics Foundation paper — Diet 2009

The contents of this letter should be passed to members of staff responsible for the subject of Home Economics.

Following discussions at the grade boundary setting meeting at the end of diet 2007, we carried out a review of the format of the Standard Grade Foundation paper.

Both candidate performance and the outcome of this review indicated that the current style of this paper makes excessive demands of candidates and so we took the decision to revise it for diet 2009.

The changes that have been made are to questions 1–3 and they now follow the following format:

Question 1

Knowledge and Understanding
Based on Course Objective 1
16 marks multiple choice

Question 2

Knowledge and Understanding, and Handling Information
Handling Information section based on Course Objective 3
Knowledge and Understanding section incorporates a ‘matching exercise’

Question 3

Knowledge and Understanding, and Handling Information

Handling Information section based on Course Objective 3

Knowledge and Understanding section incorporates a 'matching exercise'

The remainder of the paper follows the same format as before.

A specimen paper and full marking instructions have been published and can be accessed from the Home Economics page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

We believe that these changes will result in a Foundation paper which is more suitable for candidates and that allows them to perform at a level which gives a true reflection of their ability.

Please note that the Credit and General papers are unaffected.

We appreciate that while this change will be welcomed by teaching staff in principle, it will result in additional work and developing resources, etc. To help minimise this, we will produce a bank of specimen questions which will be available on SQA's website by the end of September 2008.

If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager