

4 June 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator secondary schools
and FE colleges
Higher Education Institutes
EA special schools
independent secondary
Directors of Education
HMIE

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

Contact: Jim McDonald at Glasgow
Direct line: 0845 213 5515
E-mail: jim.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications update

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for Modern Languages.

Modern Languages update

We wish to bring the following matters to your attention.

1. Standard Grade timetable alteration

Following consultation in 2007, the examination timetable for Standard Grade examinations in Modern Languages will change. In and after 2009, Foundation Reading and Listening will run consecutively in the morning, followed by both papers at General level before lunch. Credit examinations in both Reading and Listening will run consecutively in the afternoon.

2. Revision of National Assessment Bank (NAB) listening materials

Revised NAB Listening Items for French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish are now available in updated NAB packs on the secure area of SQA's website. CDs containing revised materials are also being distributed to centres. MP3 sound files, containing NAB Items, will also become available on the secure area of SQA's website.

Appendix 1 includes the letter to centres which accompanied the distribution of CDs. Included in this, Appendices A, B, C, D and E list the contents of each CD track. Please note that supplementary CDs will be available for a limited time. You can order these from the secure area of SQA's website, by following the link to *Mail Order NAB Materials*.

3. (Modern Languages) for Work Purposes Free Standing Units

The above Units are available at Access 3 and Intermediate 1 levels from August 2008. Units are available for Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. An associated Assessment Support Pack (ASP) will also be available on the secure area of SQA's website from August 2008.

SQA hosted a launch event for these Units in May 2008. Presentations from the event are available on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) on the relevant NQ language subject pages. Colleagues who were unable to obtain a place at this launch event will be invited to attend the launch event for Units at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels, to take place in May 2009. There will also be a general invitation to all centres.

4. Professional Development Workshop (PDW), Higher and Advanced Higher French Speaking, November 2008

This event will take place in November 2008. The whole day event will look at issues surrounding the preparation and assessment of candidates. The event will focus on French but will be of use to practitioners of other languages who have a knowledge of French. There will be a combination of presentation and workshops. The workshops will focus on actual candidate performance at both levels. Application forms will be available from SQA Co-ordinators and can also be downloaded from the Modern Language subject pages of SQA's website.

5. Principal Assessor, Senior Verifier and Course reports, diet 2008

SQA will publish the above reports by October 2008. These will be available on each NQ language section of SQA's website. The reports are based on information and data from candidate performance, examiner feedback and the observations of question paper Markers. Principal Assessors offer advice on performance and future preparation of candidates which centres will find useful for departmental planning and discussion.

6. Availability of past question papers on SQA's website

In and after 2007, all past papers are available to download on SQA's website. Papers are available via a link on the homepage, or from the address: www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers. During 2008 and 2009, MP3 sound files will also become available to accompany Listening papers. Please check the website for ongoing updates.

7. National Qualifications development in Chinese Languages

Following the successful launch events for National Courses in Cantonese and Mandarin at Access 3, and Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional) at Intermediate 1 and 2, specimen question papers at Intermediate 1 and 2 levels are now available on SQA's website. CDs which accompany specimen Listening papers were distributed at the launch event on 8 May 2008. Supplementary CDs are available from SQA's Customer Contact Centre (tel: 0845 279 1000). Please note also that presentations from the launch events are available on the NQ Cantonese and Mandarin pages of SQA's website.

First certification of Intermediate 1 and 2 Courses in Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional) will take place in 2009. Certification at Higher and Advanced will follow for the first time in 2010. Centres should note that candidates may only gain certification at a specific level in **either** Cantonese, **or** Mandarin (Simplified) **or** Mandarin (Traditional) in any one diet. The content of the papers for Chinese languages is the same, with adaptation for Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional).

A launch event for National Courses at Higher and Advanced Higher will take place in 2009. Specimen papers at these levels will be available at this event.

Yours faithfully



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager



Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager

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Higher Education Institutions

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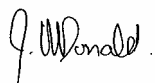
Dear Colleague

Following the revision of the National Assessment Bank (NAB) Listening Items for French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish (Intermediate 1 — Advanced Higher), I am pleased to enclose copies of relevant CDs containing revised recordings. The CDs should be used in conjunction with the revised NAB packs which are now available on the secure area of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/sqasecure).

Materials can be accessed and downloaded by your centre's SQA Co-ordinator. Please note that NAB packs are now available in Word format also. These materials are available immediately. Previous versions of NAB items and associated cassettes are no longer valid, and should be destroyed.

The NAB packs on the secure website indicate the recommended number of playings and length of pauses for each level. As an integral part of the recording of each NAB item, each CD includes, where appropriate, repetition of each item and pauses between playings. For the purposes of organisation, it should be noted that each CD track contains each NAB item in format recommended in the NAB packs. Appendices A, B, C, D, and E also indicate the content of each CD track. Please note that track 1 of each CD contains instructions for use.

Yours faithfully



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager
NQ Languages

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Appendices A-E

Appendix A: French

INTERMEDIATE 1 (Transactional Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Accommodation/shopping (The Wider World)
- Track 3: Eating out (The Wider World)
- Track 4: Travel/eating out/shopping (The Wider World)

INTERMEDIATE 2 (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Leisure (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: School/college (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Travel (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Leisure — local area (Lifestyles)

NAB 002

- Track 2: Daily routine (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Family relationships (Lifestyles)
- Track 4: Subject choice (Education and Work)
- Track 5: Tourism (The Wider World)

HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Leisure and healthy living (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: School/college (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Holidays & travel (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Friends, family & society (Lifestyles)

NAB 002

- Track 2: Leisure (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Employment issues (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Tourism (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Holidays in a school context (Education/Wider World)

ADVANCED HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Media and the arts — television (Personal, Social and Cultural Issues)
- Track 3: Education (Topical and Cultural Issues)
- Track 4: Sources of energy (Environmental Issues)
- Track 5: Stress in cities (Personal, Social and Cultural Issues/Environmental Issues)

Appendix B: German

INTERMEDIATE 1 (Transactional Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Shopping (The Wider World)
- Track 3: Eating out (The Wider World)
- Track 4: Travel (The Wider World)

INTERMEDIATE 2 (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Leisure (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: School (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Holidays and travel (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Holidays and travel (The Wider World)

NAB 002

- Track 2: Leisure/relationships (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: College (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Holidays and travel; Tourism (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Family and friends, leisure; Holidays and travel (Lifestyles/The Wider World)

HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Family, friends and society (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Careers (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Tourism (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Careers/Travel (Education and Work/The Wider World)

NAB 002

- Track 2: Family, friends and society (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Family, friends and society (Lifestyles)
- Track 4: School/college — employment issues (Education and Work)
- Track 5: Tourism (The Wider World)

ADVANCED HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Patterns of family life (Personal, Social and Cultural Issues)
- Track 3: Education (Topical and Cultural Issues)
- Track 4: Countryside Conservation (Environmental Issues)
- Track 5: Transport (Environmental Issues)

Appendix C: Italian

INTERMEDIATE 1 (Transactional Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Eating out (The Wider World)
- Track 3: Travel/shopping(The Wider World)
- Track 4: Accommodation (The Wider World)

INTERMEDIATE 2 (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Family and friends (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: School (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Holidays and travel (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Financing leisure (Lifestyles)

NAB 002

- Track 2: School (Education and Work)
- Track 3: Daily Routine (Lifestyles)
- Track 4: Travel, holidays (The Wider World)

HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Family relationships (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Careers, employment issues (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Travel and tourism (The Wider World)
- Track 5: School (Education and Work)

NAB 002

- Track 2: College/careers (Education and Work)
- Track 3: Leisure (Lifestyles)
- Track 4: Leisure and healthy living (Lifestyles)
- Track 5: Family, friends, society (The Wider World)

ADVANCED HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Issues relating to the country where the language is spoken (Topical and Cultural Issues)
- Track 3: Pollution/conservation (Environmental Issues)
- Track 4: Media and the arts (Personal, Social and Cultural issues)
- Track 5: Patterns of family life/Issues relating to the country where the language is spoken (Personal, Social and Cultural Issues/Topical and Cultural Issues)

Appendix D: Russian

INTERMEDIATE 1 (Transactional Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Shopping (The Wider World)
- Track 3: Eating out (The Wider World)
- Track 4: Travel/eating out/shopping (The Wider World)

INTERMEDIATE 2 (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Leisure (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: School (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Holidays and travel (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Travel and daily routine (The Wider World/Lifestyles)

HIGHER (Language Unit)

NAB 001

- Track 2: Family, friends and society (Lifestyles)
- Track 3: Careers (Education and Work)
- Track 4: Tourism (The Wider World)
- Track 5: Careers/travel (Education and Work)

ADVANCED HIGHER (Language Unit)

- Track 2: Patterns of family life/education (Personal, social and Cultural Issues)
- Track 3: Issues relating to the country where the language is spoken (Topical and Cultural Issues)
- Track 4: Urban expansion into the countryside (Environmental Issues)
- Track 5: Marriage/gender issues (Personal, Social and Cultural Issues)

