

31 October 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator
(Secondary schools and and FE colleges)
Higher Education Institutes
EA special schools
Independent Secondary Schools
Directors of Education
HMIE

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

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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. Advanced Higher External Examination, Reading and Translation

In and after 2009, the duration of this paper will be extended by 10 minutes, and the allocated time will become 90 minutes. Please note that the duration of the Listening and Writing paper will not change.

2. National Courses in Chinese Languages at SCQF levels 4 and 5

Centres delivering National Courses in Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional) at Intermediate 1 and 2 should note the following information in relation to the delivery of external examinations at these levels, in and after 2009:

- ◆ At Intermediate 1, the duration of the Writing paper will be 40 minutes.
- ◆ At Intermediate 2, the duration of the Writing paper will be 55 minutes.

- ◆ For the Reading paper, at both Intermediate 1 and 2, a word list will be available to candidates during the examinations, and will provide a glossary of selected characters for each question.

Centres should also note that the Modern Languages Arrangements, Appendix A, will include an addition to the Grammar Grid (Productive) with supplementary information for Chinese languages. This supplement can be accessed through the relevant Modern Languages subject pages of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

SQA is also publishing Extended Pegged Mark Descriptors for external Writing examinations at SCQF 4 and 5 (Intermediate 1 and 2), specifically for Chinese languages. These will be available on the Cantonese and Mandarin subject pages of SQA's website. Centres will also find updated Candidate Overview Guides for internal and external assessment in Chinese languages here, which list the changes outlined above.

3. *(Modern Languages) for Work Purposes Units*

Centres should note that an Assessment Support Pack (ASP) is available for SCQF 3 and 4 (Access 3 and Intermediate 1). The ASP can be accessed on the secure area of SQA's website. The ASP is available for French, and a generic version is available for other languages.

SQA will be hosting a Launch Event for further development of these Units at SCQF 5 and 6 (Intermediate 2 and Higher), which will take place on 30 April 2009. Colleagues who were unsuccessful in gaining a place at the previous event in May 2008, will be invited to attend the 2009 event. Other colleagues will also be able to request a place at this event.

4. **Scottish Languages Baccalaureate**

SQA is currently working closely with the Scottish Government on the development of a Baccalaureate award in Languages, which will be available in session 2009/10. A link is available from the NQ section of SQA's website, where centres can access up-to-date information.

Yours faithfully,



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager



Alan Wilson
Qualifications Manager