

26 August 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator

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

Contact: Alex Hair  
Direct line: 0845 213 5573  
E-mail: [alex.hair@sqa.org.uk](mailto:alex.hair@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Colleague

### **Report: Development work on National Qualifications 2008/2009**

I am pleased to enclose a report on development work relating to National Qualifications - National Units, National Courses and National Qualification Group Awards – National Certificates and National Progression Awards. This refers to information contained within the *National Qualifications Catalogue* which is published on our website at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk). The Catalogue will be updated regularly throughout the year and will contain the most up to date information about available National Qualifications. Further information about new and revised National Units, National Courses and National Qualification Group Awards can be found on the NQ section of the SQA website at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk). NQ Search allows you to search for National Units and Courses by keyword, title or code.

The report contains the following sections:

- Section 1** National Courses - New and Revised - information about new and revised National Courses developed for implementation in 2008/2009 (including Skills for Work Courses)
- Section 2** National Courses – Deletions - information about National Courses which have been removed from the Catalogue of National Qualifications action to be taken with their Units
- Section 3** National Units - information about Units which are being retained as freestanding Units and were previously part of National Courses which are no longer available
- Section 4** New and revised National Units – a list of new and revised Units which are not part of National Courses
- Section 5** National Qualification Group Awards – a list of National Certificates and National Progression Awards which have been made available since the last report (2007/2008) was published
- Section 6** Deletions - information about all National Units which will not be in the catalogue from session 2008/2009 onwards, some of which are subject to the conditions of a completion period

Appendix 1 of the report details approval implications for new and revised National Qualifications.

The Report and the Appendix will also be available to download from the SQA website at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

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### *Updated versions of Arrangements Documents*

Latest versions of Arrangements documents are published on SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk), and updates are issued by Qualifications teams – these updates are also published on the subject pages on SQA's website.

I would like to draw your attention to new editions of the Arrangements documents for Geography (Higher and Advanced Higher) are being published. Please note that the codes for these Courses have not changed.

#### *Geography (Higher)*

The Arrangements have been revised to increase flexibility in delivery and to allow a more integrated approach to teaching of key environmental issues and interactions. The following amendments have been made:

- ◆ Question Paper 2 – Candidates previously answered 2 questions one chosen from each of 2 lists of 3, the change will introduce a free choice of topics from all 6 questions.
- ◆ Minor additions to content for two topics (atmosphere, hydrosphere) in the Physical Environments Unit (DF3C 12)

#### *Geography (Advanced Higher)*

The Arrangements have been revised to be more inclusive of current environmental issues, to remove weightings of 1.2 currently applied to the question paper and to remove difficulties in the application of the word count condition. The following amendments have been made:

- ◆ Opening up of choice of topics which may be studied for Geographical Issues essay.
- ◆ Removal of the word limit for the Geography Study and Geographical Issue essay within the Folio.
- ◆ Changes to question paper component of external assessment:
  - the question paper will be out of 60 marks.
  - addition of a new Section C containing one compulsory 10 marks question.
  - extension of the duration of the question paper from 2 hours to 2 hours 30 minute

It is important that this information is forwarded to relevant departments/managers within your centre.

Yours faithfully



Lesley Joyce  
Business Manager  
National Qualifications Product Development

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