

16 August 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinator
(Secondary Schools and FE Colleges)
EA Special Schools
Independent Secondary Schools
Higher Education Institutions
Directors of Education
HMIE

| Action by Recipient | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Response required |
| ✓ | Note and pass on |
| | None — 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 Intermediate 1 and 2 External Examinations, Listening

In and after 2011, a third playing of the foreign language text for each question will be introduced in the Listening recordings for Intermediate 1 and 2. At Intermediate 2, there will be one minute between the second and third playing of each item, with an interval of two minutes between each item (where this interval was previously three minutes). The overall timings, at both levels, remain unchanged.

2 Notice of Deletions, National Units

Centres should note that the National Units at SCQF levels 3 and 4 listed in Appendix 1 of this letter and which were available in session 2009/2010, will be withdrawn from the Catalogue of National Qualifications. Centres already approved to offer these Units may run them for one more year.

3 Standard Grade Russian

Certification in Standard Grade Russian will take place for the last time in 2010. National Courses at Access 3, Intermediate 1 and 2, and Higher Russian are currently under review.

4 Internal and External Assessment Reports, Diet 2010

SQA will publish Internal and External Assessment Reports by the end of October 2010. These will be available on the SQA website at www.sqa.org.uk on the NQ subject page for the appropriate language and level. The reports are based on information and data from candidate performance, Examiner feedback and the observations of Question Paper Markers. The reports also offer specific advice to centres on performance and future preparation of candidates.

5 (Modern Languages) for Work Purposes, Advanced Higher

The current suite of free-standing Units, (*Modern Languages) for Work Purposes*, at Access 3, Intermediate 1 and 2, and Higher will be extended to include Advanced Higher Level. As with the other levels the generic Unit specification will be available for Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. The Unit specification and associated Assessment Support Pack (ASP) will be available for use in centres as of July 2011. The ASP will be available for French, and there will also be a generic version for the other languages. Other support will become available in 2011.

Information on (*Modern Languages) for Work Purposes* can be found on the SQA website on the NQ subject page for any of the languages.

6 National Courses in Chinese Languages

First certification of National Courses in Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified) and Mandarin (Traditional) at Higher/Advanced Higher Levels has taken place in August 2010. Centres are reminded that materials for Chinese languages at these levels, as well as at Access 3 and Intermediate 1 and 2, can be accessed at www.sqa.org.uk on the NQ Cantonese and Mandarin subject pages. These include Summary Guides to Assessment for internal and external assessment in Chinese languages, and Specimen Question Papers with accompanying downloadable MP3 files for Specimen Listening Papers.

National Assessment Bank (NAB) materials, Access 3 – Advanced Higher, are also available on the SQA Secure website (with MP3 Listening files).

SQA and Hanban, The Chinese Language Council International, have jointly developed support materials which have been e-enabled for Intermediate 1 and 2. These can be accessed at www.sqasolar.org.uk/openassess. The materials are designed to support the delivery of external assessment of Reading and Listening. Recorded Listening Items can be downloaded as MP3 files from SQA's website on the NQ Cantonese and Mandarin pages. A similar package at Higher and Advanced Higher Levels will be e-enabled in 2011.

7 The Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages

The Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages has been available for delivery since August 2009, with first certification taking place in August 2010.

Candidates chose a wide range of exciting themes for their Interdisciplinary Projects as well as a variety of innovative ways of presenting their research findings and demonstrated that they have developed the generic skills which will greatly enhance their performance in Higher Education or in the workplace. A great deal of collaborative work took place through cross sector partnerships and a sharing of experience between centres.

A Support Event for centres delivering the Baccalaureate for the first time in session 2010/2011 will take place in September 2010. Centres will receive a general invitation with more details to follow.

Centres should also note that the following materials will be added to the Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages subject page on the SQA website for the start of the new session:

- Exemplification of the Interdisciplinary Project, with Examiner commentaries, based on actual candidate performance
- Interdisciplinary Project – Video Case Studies.

For further information on any aspect of the Scottish Baccalaureates please contact: **Lorna Grant, Baccalaureate Development Manager, on 0845 213 5460 or at lorna.grant@sqa.org.uk.**

8 Skills Focused NQ Units

SQA is currently working in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the development of Single Skill Units. These will be available initially in Gaelic and subsequently in other languages, with associated Assessment Support Packs at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5.

9 Curriculum for Excellence

SQA has published the *Overview of qualifications in the languages curriculum area* which can be viewed in the Curriculum for Excellence section of SQA's website. A feedback facility is also available on the website. Our Qualifications Design Teams will now take forward the recommendations into the design of qualifications for each subject listed in the *Overview*.

Subject Working Groups to help us develop the next generation of National Qualifications will be established from summer 2010 to carry out discrete pieces of work, for example, developing the rationale and course summary, unit specification or unit support pack for a particular subject area.

If you are interested in helping us with this work, please take a few minutes to read the information on the Subject Working Groups page in the Curriculum for Excellence section of SQA's website, and then complete and submit the Registration of Interest application form.

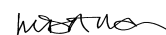
10 Understanding Standards website

This website, which can be accessed through www.sqa.org.uk, includes material to support practitioners in the preparation of candidates for Higher French and German.

Yours faithfully



Jim McDonald
Qualifications Manager



Margaret Allan
Qualifications Manager

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Appendix A: Notice of Deletions, National Units

| Unit Title | Unit Code | SQA Level | SCQF Level |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Asian Language: Bengali | D15F 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Asian Language: Bengali | D15F 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Asian Language: Hindi | D15J 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Asian Language: Hindi | D15J 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Asian Language: Punjabi | D15M 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Asian Language: Punjabi | D15M 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Asian Language: Urdu | D15R 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Asian Language: Urdu | D15R 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Chinese Language: Cantonese | D15V 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Chinese Language: Cantonese | D15V 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Chinese Language: Mandarin | D15Y 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Chinese Language: Mandarin | D15Y 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Catalan | EG43 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Catalan | EG43 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Danish | D14E 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Danish | D14E 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Dutch | D13X 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Dutch | D13X 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Finnish | D14F 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Finnish | D14F 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: French | ED2X 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: French | ED2X 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Gaelic | ED2Y 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Gaelic | ED2Y 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: German | ED30 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: German | ED30 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Hebrew | D14G 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Hebrew | D14G 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Italian | ED31 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Italian | ED31 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Japanese | D15E 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Japanese | D15E 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Modern Greek | D13Y 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Modern Greek | D13Y 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Norwegian | D14A 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Norwegian | D14A 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Polish | D14B 09 | Access 3 | 3 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------|---|
| Language: Polish | D14B 10 | Intermediate 1 | 4 |
| Language: Portuguese | D14C 09 | Access 3 | 3 |
| Language: Portuguese | D14C 10 | Intermediate 1 | 3 |
| Language: Russian | ED36 09 | Access 3 | 4 |
| Language: Russian | ED36 10 | Intermediate 1 | 3 |
| Language: Spanish | ED37 09 | Access 3 | 4 |
| Language: Spanish | ED37 10 | Intermediate 1 | 3 |
| Language: Swedish | D14D 09 | Access 3 | 4 |
| Language: Swedish | D14D 10 | Intermediate 1 | 3 |