

19 August 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinators  
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: SQA Business Development Managers

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None - update/information only

Contact Name: Alan Wilson  
Direct Line: 0845 213 5519  
E-mail: alan.wilson@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for English in your school or college.

### **0890 01 Standard Grade English - Spoken**

Standard Grade English - Spoken was developed to meet the needs of those candidates who had specific difficulties with reading and writing. Given that candidates who have these difficulties are able to use all forms of linguistic support, including assistive technologies, readers and scribes in the Standard Grade English Course, there has been zero uptake for the Standard Grade English - Spoken Course. Consequently there is no need to retain this qualification and we are therefore withdrawing it from the NQ Catalogue. All candidates with specific difficulties who would have chosen this qualification can be accommodated by the 0860 01 Standard Grade English with appropriate assessment arrangements.

### **NQ Understanding Standards Professional Development Workshops**

The following Professional Development Workshops (PDWs) English are planned this year:

- ◆ Higher English  
Saturday 28 November  
Dunblane

- ◆ Standard Grade English (aimed at teachers who are new to the qualification)  
Saturday 5 December  
Dunblane

Please note that the number of places will be limited at both events. For more information, or to book a place, please visit [www.sqa.org.uk/pdws](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pdws)

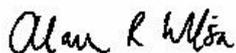
### **National Assessment Bank (NAB) materials**

Some amendments and deletions are being made to NAB materials, which can be downloaded from the English pages of SQA's secure website. Obsolete Units with lapsed codes are being withdrawn or recoded at all levels from Access 3 to Advanced Higher. The advice on Conditions for Assessment and Reassessment are being incorporated in all NAB close reading Units.

### **Higher English Close Reading**

Candidates should be reminded that when answering questions coded "U – Understanding", they should use their own words as far as is reasonably possible and not simply repeat the wording of the passage. The instructions to candidates in the 2010 close reading paper will be adapted slightly to encourage candidates to do so, and references to using 'own words' in individual questions will be removed.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Wilson  
Qualifications Manager  
National Qualifications