

16 May 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Directors of Education

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the
delivery of National Qualifications in English**

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications — English

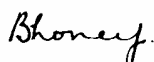
Higher – Critical Essay

Following recommendations from the examiners and a recent pilot project, SQA, as part of the ongoing review of assessment, has agreed to a restructuring of the detailed marking instructions for the Critical Essay paper in Higher English. This restructuring will apply to the marking of this paper by SQA for the 2008 examination. There is no change to the Arrangements for Higher English. There is no change to the Performance Criteria for Critical Essay in Higher English. The agreed restructuring will relate to the detailed marking instructions for Critical Essay in Higher English only. There is no change meantime to the marking instructions for levels other than Higher.

Further details are available in the specimen marking information for Higher English on SQA's website. The finalised marking instructions for Higher English for 2008 will be published on SQA's website in the usual way in due course.

It is recognised that centres will have applied the existing detailed marking scheme for Critical Essay in Higher English in their marking of evidence for preparation of estimates for candidates for the 2008 examination. The examiners will take account of this throughout the post-examination procedures in 2008, so that there will be no disadvantage to any candidate.

Yours faithfully



Miss B Loney
Qualifications Manager