

To: SQA Coordinators
Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
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 — Art and Design; Higher Photography Update

The contents of this update provide information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Art and Design, and should be passed to the members of staff responsible for this subject.

This Update contains information about:

- 1 Art and Design Distribution/Key Dates
- 2 Appointees
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1 Art and Design Distribution/Key Submission Dates

The uplift date for external assessments for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Art and Design is Wednesday 1 May 2013.

The annual December Art and Design distribution, which contains key submission dates, *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment*, Standard Grade Titles, and the Design Brief/Evaluation forms for Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher, will no longer be issued in paper format to centres. These documents will now only be available on SQA's website.

The 2013 Art and Design distribution documents will be available to download from the Art and Design Practical Assessment Webpage on SQA's website in December 2012:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48317.html>

This webpage is linked to the NQ Art and Design pages on SQA's website.

The Standard Grade Titles for the 2013 examination will be published on the Art and Design page on SQA's website in December 2012 and must be downloaded from there.

The *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment* for Higher Photography will no longer be issued to centres in paper format and will be uploaded to the SQA website in March 2013.

2 Appointees

Examination Teams

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2011/12. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing working with them during session 2012/13.

Markers

Marking is an extremely important, and highly valued, component of the education system in Scotland. Many teachers/lecturers carry out this role in order to further their own understanding of the examination process, and as part of their Continuous Professional Development. If you are interested in becoming a Marker and have either two (Standard Grade, Intermediate1 or Intermediate 2) or three (Higher or Advanced Higher) year's current experience of delivering Art and Design or Photography, please complete an Appointee Application form, which can be downloaded from the Appointee Management page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/am), and return it to am@sqa.org.uk.

3 External and Internal Assessment Reports

These reports are available from the relevant subject pages of the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk). I recommend that you take time to read these reports as they contain useful feedback on candidate performance in Diet 2012. This includes information about areas in which candidates performed well, together with advice to centres regarding areas which they found more demanding.

4 Art and Design Practical Assessment

Mannequins

It has become increasingly common for centres/candidates to submit their fashion/costume designs displayed on mannequins. We are very short of storage space at the marking venue and so, whilst we appreciate the aesthetic quality of seeing a Design hanging on a mannequin, we are unable to sustain this increase and would strongly advise centres to reconsider sending mannequins as part of their candidates' Design folios.

Instead, we suggest that centres send photographs of candidates' final outcomes either being modelled or displayed on a mannequin and submit the final design packaged appropriately.

5 Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 Art and Design Grade Boundaries

Each year a grade boundary meeting takes place for each subject at each level where all the information available (including statistics and marker feedback) is brought together and discussed. The Principal Assessor and SQA Qualifications Manager meet with the relevant SQA Head of Service and Statistician to discuss the evidence and make decisions. The meetings are chaired by a member of SQA's Management Team.

At the grade boundary meeting In Diet 2011 we moved the Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 grade boundaries to the marks shown below as, in comparison with other subjects at this level, the national ratings were particularly high. This action had the desired effect and the national ratings moved to more appropriate levels; Intermediate 1 (0.86) and Intermediate 2 (0.64).

These boundaries were maintained in Diet 2012 and if all things remain equal in Diet 2013 it is not anticipated that there will be any further movement to these boundaries; ie they will be retained at their current level.

The 2011 and 2012 grade boundaries for Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 Art & Design are as follows:

Intermediate 1 Art and Design – Grade Boundaries 2011 and 2012

	GRADE BOUNDARIES					
Title	Max Mark	Upper A	A Mark	B Mark	C Mark	D Mark
Art and Design	160	141	117	101	85	77

Intermediate 2 Art and Design – Grade Boundaries 2011 and 2012

	GRADE BOUNDARIES					
Title	Max Mark	Upper A	A Mark	B Mark	C Mark	D Mark
Art and Design	200	180	150	130	110	100

National ratings are comparability indices which can be used as a guide to the relative awarding standards in the various subjects from Standard Grade to Advanced Higher level. The assumption underlying these indices is that candidates who, on average, do well in all subjects will also do well in any particular subject. The difference between a candidate's result in a given subject and the mean of the candidate's results in the other subjects taken is therefore, when averaged over a group of candidates, an indication of the "difficulty" of the subject in question. An acceptable 'tolerance zone' of +/- 0.5 is applied. The national rating for Intermediate 1 was +1.23, and Intermediate 2 Art and Design was approaching +1; this means that candidates were achieving a full grade higher for Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 Art and Design, in comparison to other subjects at the same levels. The grade boundaries, therefore, were adjusted in 2011 to reflect the standard more appropriately.

6 Advanced Higher Art and Design

It was identified at central marking that some centres had not included Statements of Intent and/or Optional Units with their Advanced Higher folio submissions.

It is **essential** that centres ensure that all assessable material is included. We do not wish to disadvantage any candidate so we contact the centres concerned to give them the opportunity to send in the relevant material; but this is time consuming and can require us to arrange an additional marking session.

Information on exactly what should be submitted is outlined for each level of Art and Design in the *Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for Internal and External Assessment* document.

In addition, some centres had entered their candidates for the Design Course rather than Expressive, and vice versa; and in some cases candidates had been entered for the correct Course award, but they were entered for the wrong Units.

We make every effort to identify such errors and to inform the centres concerned in order that they can rectify them as, unless corrected, these errors will result in candidates being wrongly certificated.

A reminder of the codes for the Advanced Higher Art and Design: Expressive and Advanced Higher Art and Design: Design can be found in the Appendix.

7 Understanding Standards Website

SQA's Understanding Standards website (www.understandingstandards.org.uk) has been updated. The Art and Design pages on the website contain valuable examples of candidates' work at Standard Grade, Intermediate and Higher levels. These examples are intended to provide you with an opportunity to gain an insight into the marking process by showing you candidates' work, giving you the opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding and, ultimately, to give you a better understanding of national standards and how to apply these to your own marking. Teachers are strongly advised to access this valuable material.

8 Exemplification – SQA Secure Website

As part of our commitment of continuing support for teachers we have exemplification on the SQA Secure Website – www.sqa.org.uk/sgasecure. SQA coordinators in centres have access to the secure website and teachers/lecturers are advised to contact their SQA Coordinator to access the material.

The 2012 Higher Art and Design Benchmark folios (ie those used for training purposes at Central Marking) with commentaries will be uploaded to the secure site in December 2012. The 2011 Intermediate 2 and Higher Art and Design Benchmark folios with commentaries were published on the secure website last year and are still available to centres.

9 National Qualifications Group Awards

National Qualification Group Awards (NQGA) is the term which encompasses National Certificates (NCs) and National Progression Awards (NPAs).

National Certificate Awards

National Certificates are designed to prepare people for employment, career development or progression to more advanced study at HNC/HND level. They also aim to develop a range of transferable knowledge including Core Skills. These certificates are aimed at 16-18 year olds or adults in full-time education and are at SCQF Levels 2-6. Each one has specific aims relating to a subject or occupational area.

We are delighted to announce that new National Certificate awards have been developed. Further information is outlined in the following paragraphs.

National Certificate in Architecture and Interior Design at SCQF level 6; Architecture and Art at SCQF level 6

These new qualifications are designed to provide candidates with opportunities to explore and increase their awareness of the role interior design and art plays within an architectural context. The qualifications are aimed at those who intend to progress their learning to an advanced level, whilst equipping candidates with essential employability skills required for industry.

The Course Arrangements documents for these new qualifications will shortly be available on the NQGA Art and Design page on SQA's website.

NPA Photography at SCQF level 4 and level 5

National Progression Awards (NPAs) are also designed to help people reach their goals. NPAs are aimed at assessing a defined set of skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas. They also link to National Occupational Standards.

NPAs are at SCQF Levels 2-6 and are successfully delivered in partnership between schools, colleges and employers. Although many schools get involved, they are mainly used by colleges for short study programmes, such as return-to-work courses or part-time learning for those already in work.

We are delighted to announce that National Progression Awards have been developed in Photography at SCQF levels 4 and 5. The awards are designed to provide candidates with an opportunity to develop both creative and technical skills in photography. The awards are intended to develop an awareness and appreciation of the basic technical and creative practices used in understanding photography, photographing people and places, and working with photographs; candidates will also develop experience of working with others, presentation skills and exhibition work.

The Course Arrangements documents for these NPAs are available on the NQGA Art and Design page on SQA's website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/35192.html>

National Certificate in Photography at SCQF level 6

This qualification is designed to meet the needs of candidates who wish to develop a foundation of the photographic knowledge and skills required for progression to more advanced levels of study in photography. It is also suitable for those who wish to prepare themselves for initial entry to employment within the photo-imaging sector. Candidates will have opportunities to develop vocational and employability skills relevant for posts such as an assistant photographer, photographic lab technician or retail assistant.

The Course Arrangements document for this qualification is available on the NQGA Art and Design page on SQA's website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/35192.html>

National Certificate in Model Making for TV and Film at SCQF level 6

This qualification is designed to provide articulation and progression within further and higher education. There is also potential for candidates to transfer to trainee positions in the model making industry on completion.

The main focus of the qualification is on TV and film productions; however the various skills developed during the course are fully transferable. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop a sufficiently broad range of core and transferable creative skills. These skills, combined with the hands on practical experience offered throughout this award, will future proof candidates' job prospects.

The Course Arrangements document for this qualification is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page on SQA's website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificate in Jewellery at SCQF level 6

This qualification aims to provide candidates with a range of practical jewellery manufacturing and workshop skills and complementary studio design skills which will provide candidates with a good base of useful knowledge on which to build a career in the UK jewellery industry.

The Course Arrangements document for this qualification is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page on SQA's website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Progression Awards in Jewellery:

NPA Jewellery: Basic Techniques 1 at SCQF level 5

NPA Jewellery: Basic Techniques 2 at SCQF level 5

NPA Jewellery: Advanced Techniques at SCQF level 6

These new qualifications aim to provide candidates with a range of practical jewellery manufacturing and workshop skills which will provide a candidate with a good base of useful knowledge on which to build a career in the UK jewellery industry. The practical skills derived from undertaking the Group Award will be transferable to the repairs and servicing side of the jewellery business which play an important part of the industry in the UK.

The Course Arrangements document for these qualifications is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page on SQA's website:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificate in Screen Printing at SCQF level 5

This qualification acts as a route to a suite of qualifications in screen printing. It has been designed to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to develop design and technical skills in a variety of creative and commercial processes for the screen printing, digital, design, and printing industries.

The Course Arrangements document for this qualification is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page on SQA's website: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificate in Creative Printmaking with Photography at SCQF level 6

This qualification is designed to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to develop both creative and technical skills in a variety of traditional and commercial printing processes for the printing, photography, and design industries. It is also designed to develop a key level of awareness and appreciation of the technical skills and creative techniques used in the various production areas, together with experience of co-operative working, presentation and exhibition techniques.

The Course Arrangements document for this qualification is available on the NQGA Creative Industries page of the SQA website.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45337.html>

National Certificates in Computer Arts and Animation at SCQF levels 5 and 6.

These new awards are designed as feeder courses at SCQF levels 5 and 6 for Higher National programmes including:

- ◆ HN 3D Computer Animation
- ◆ HN Computer Arts and Design
- ◆ HN Filmcraft and Animation

The Course Arrangements document for these qualifications is available on the NQGA pages of SQA's website.

National Certificate in Art and Design

Centres are reminded that the National Certificate in Award Art and Design (SCQF level 6) was validated in December 2008. The award is designed to meet the needs of candidates who wish to develop a foundation for progression into further study and for those who wish to enter art and design based employment. There are a wide range of optional Units at SCQF level 6 and at SCQF level 5 which gives centres flexibility of choice to meet a range of specialist articulation routes and employment purposes.

National Progression Award (NPA) in Art and Design

Centres are reminded that the National Progression Award (NPA) in Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF levels 5 and 6) was validated in December 2008. The NPA's develop the key skills for candidates wishing to succeed in the growing digital design sector. The NPA's meet the needs of the creative industries sector by preparing candidates for further education or employment.

The NPA's provide a range of complementary digital media-based art and design skills, with a focus on the development of animation sequences, video, and web-based digital media content for art and design applications.

The level 6 NPA incorporates a creative project-based approach to learning which extends the basic practical experiential learning gained in the level 5 NPA.

Qualification currently under development

A National Certificate in Furniture Making at SCQF Level 6 is currently being developed. Further details will be communicated to centres, and uploaded to SQA's website when available.

Centre Approval for National Qualifications Group Awards

Centres with devolved authority are eligible to seek approval to offer National Qualifications Group Awards through their own internal approval process.

Centres without devolved authority will have to [come forward for approval](#) and should contact the Business Development Team for guidance in completing the combined CA1/SA1 form.

Assessors and verifiers must be able to meet [SQA's general requirements](#) for technical/occupational competence.

10 Curriculum for Excellence update

Unit Assessment Support

SQA has developed the first pack of Unit Assessment Support for Units in the new National Courses from National 2 to National 5. These are for assessors in schools and colleges. They are confidential documents which must be held securely. These documents are valid from August 2013.

The first pack is now available on the [SQA Secure website](#) via each school or college's SQA Coordinator. Practitioners should speak to their SQA Coordinator to access the documents.

Assessment support is designed to encourage professional judgement and to support learning and assessment that will motivate and challenge learners. The packs will help practitioners deliver and assess the new National Qualifications. Assessors may use the assessments provided in Unit Assessment Support Packs as they are, adapt/modify them, and/or use them to develop their own assessments. Further Unit Assessment Support Packs will follow at the end of February and the end of April 2013.

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager
Art and Design; Photography

Advanced Higher Art and Design Codes

Expressive

Option 1

Advanced Higher – Expressive Enquiry with Design Activity

- C224 13 Course code
- DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- DV38 13 Art and Design: Design Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher – Expressive Enquiry with Visual Arts Study

- C224 13 Course code
- DV3F 13 Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry
- DV3G 13 Art and Design Studies: Visual Arts Study

Design

Option 1

Advanced Higher – Design Enquiry with Expressive Activity

- C225 13 Course code
- DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- DV37 13 Art and Design: Expressive Activity

Option 2

Advanced Higher – Design Enquiry with Design Study

- C225 13 Course code
- DV3H 13 Art and Design: Design Enquiry
- DV3J 13 Art and Design Studies: Design Study