EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: ML/EF

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Dear Learner

I am writing to update you on the latest news from SQA regarding your National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications this session.

This letter provides further details released by SQA since I last wrote to you on 22nd February.

The current planning continues to be for the SQA exam diet to go ahead from Tuesday 26th April until Wednesday 1st June.

SQA have published "Your Exams 2022" which you will receive from your school. This important booklet of information regarding the exams can also be accessed through this link

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/YourExams2022

Exam Revision Support

SQA have now published their exam revision support for learners preparing for exams. Your school will already have shared details of where to access these, however the links are copied below:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/exam revision support

Visit Ushare

Education Scotland, in partnership with e-Sgoil, is also running a series of study support webinars for learners working towards National Qualifications in 2022. Details can be found on the e-Sgoil website at

https://www.e-sgoil.com/study-support/

SQA Estimates

Your school will submit SQA estimates for most National Qualifications by Friday 22nd April 2022 (the deadline for a few National Qualifications is 30th May 2022). These estimates will be based on SQA Guidance on Generating and Moderating Estimates which requires that they are based on "valid evidence of learners' demonstrated attainment that is measured against the required skills, knowledge and understanding of each course."

This means your school will have gathered evidence (e.g. prelims, course assessments) which cover the key elements of each of your courses. The school will have assessed this evidence against the requirements of the course to determine the estimate submitted to SQA.

These estimates will be used by SQA if you cannot attend the exam for a valid reason. They will also be used if you wish to appeal your exam result. (See further details below).

The estimates for the upcoming 2022 SQA exam diet are not being applied in the same way as the estimates were used in 2021 SQA qualifications. The estimates submitted by your school are **not** the SQA results you will receive in August as SQA exams are taking place this year and these will determine the results you receive in August.

Your school will share your SQA Estimates with you in the week beginning 18th April 2022.

Please note the SQA message below:

In the event of a request to the Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service or an Appeal, the candidate's assessment evidence will be reviewed by SQA's senior appointees, who will make the final decision based on their experience of applying the National Standards. **That grade may be different from the centre's estimated grade.**

Importance of Attending Exams

It is important that you understand that the estimate is based on the evidence held by the school at that point in time. Experience shows that many young people improve their grades through revision and exam practice in the time between estimates being submitted to SQA and the actual exam.

You should make effective use of Study Leave to provide yourself with the best chance of achieving your best grade in the exam.

Make sure you attend all of your exams (unless you have a valid reason for the Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) explained below.

It is important that you get the experience of completing and doing your very best in exams. This can be a key skill for future study and /or post school destinations.

There is also no guarantee that the SQA Estimate submitted by the school will be your final grade if you do not attend the exam or submit an appeal.

It is also important to note that grades awarded through EECCS will be at the lowest band. For example, only a Grade A Band 2 could be awarded not a Grade A Band 1.

Information for learners on the Exam Exceptional Circumstances Service

This year, SQA is running a service called the 'Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS)'.

This service will support you in the following scenarios:

- If you are unable to attend an exam due to unforeseen circumstances – such as a medical condition (including Covid-19 related absence) or bereavement.
- If there has been disruption at your school on the day of the exam, which means the exam cannot take place.

If you need to use the Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service – for one of the reasons listed above – your school will send the evidence used to generate your SQA Estimate to SQA. The school can only send the evidence used for your estimate, they are not allowed to send anything completed after this.

SQA appointees, who are also practising teachers and lecturers, will review your evidence and judge it against the national standard for that course to determine your grade.

If you cannot attend an exam for any reason, you must contact your school immediately. Your school will discuss whether you are eligible for the Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service and tell you about any evidence you need to provide as proof that you cannot sit the exam.

Information for learners on the 2022 Appeals Service

This year, SQA is running a free Appeals Service for learners who want to question their results. This service will be available after results day, and you will be able to inform SQA directly that you want to appeal one or more of your results.
There will also be a Priority Appeals Service for anyone waiting on a result for a university or college place or for an employment or training programme.

An appeal can only be submitted if the grade awarded to you after sitting the exam is at least one grade lower than the SQA estimate submitted by the school. This means that if your SQA Estimate was Grade C Band 5 and you were awarded a Grade C

Band 6 you cannot appeal. (In a very small number of cases a young person may need a particular band for a post-school destination if this applies to you discuss this with your school who will liaise with SQA).

If you submit an appeal, your school will send the evidence used to determine your SQA estimate to SQA. Your school can only submit this evidence, they are not allowed to submit any other evidence.

SQA appointees, who are also practising teachers and lecturers, will review this evidence and judge it against the national standard for that course. SQA will also conduct a clerical check on your exam script.

Through the appeals process, you would be awarded the higher grade of the two types of evidence (either your exam grade or the grade awarded by SQA appointees for the assessment evidence your school submitted to SQA in support of the appeal. Any coursework grades will be included).

Frequently asked questions

SQA have published Frequently Asked Questions on their website at the link below.

www.sqa.org.uk/faq

As we draw nearer to the SQA Exam Diet, I hope that your exam preparation goes well. Please revise and make effective use of the time between now and the exams. I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely

Maria Lloyd
Head of Education (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support)