

section 5: the consultation questions

Please note that the Respondent Information Form MUST be returned with your response.

As indicated in section 3 – How to Respond, responses can be submitted on-line, or on a copy of the questionnaire printed from the website, or by cutting out and completing this section of the document. Additional paper should be used if you wish to provide more extended responses but please ensure that any such pages include your identifying details.

Name/Organisation: MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT, GLENIFFER HIGH SCHOOL

PROPOSAL 1

National Qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher will be retained as points of stability. Highers, in particular, will remain the 'gold standard' of the Scottish education system. The content of all National Qualifications will be updated to reflect the values, purposes and principles of *Curriculum for Excellence*. Some aspects of the structure of these qualifications will also be reviewed.

Q1. Do you welcome the intention to update all qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher in line with *Curriculum for Excellence*? Please comment on any implications to be considered.

YES

NO

Comment

ANY CHANGES MUST BE FULLY RESOURCED AND NOT LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP.
ANY CHANGES MUST NOT ADD TO THE TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE COURSE.

PROPOSAL 2

A new qualification will replace the present Standard Grade General and Credit levels and Intermediate 1 and 2 (SCQF 4 and SCQF 5) qualifications. The new qualification will be available in a wide range of subjects, as at present. The new qualification will reflect the best features of Standard Grade and Intermediate. Standard Grade Foundation level will be removed and Access 3 will provide certification at SCQF level 3. (See Annex A Table 1 for illustration of new qualifications on SCQF framework.)

Q2. Early consultation has identified the 'best' features of Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications as:

- the 'inclusive' approach to certification contained in Standard Grade; and
- the 'unit based' structure of Intermediate qualifications.

Are there any other features in the present Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications which should be included in the new qualification at SCQF levels 4 and 5?

Comment

THE EARLY CONSULTATION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WIDE ENOUGH, THE UNIT STRUCTURE WILL NOT BE UNIVERSALLY WELCOMED. UNIT ASSESSMENTS WILL ADD TO TEACHERS' WORKLOAD IN S3+4. THE BEST FEATURE OF INTERMEDIATE QUALIFICATIONS IS THAT THEY MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO CLASSIFY QUESTIONS AS KNOWLEDGE ETC.

Q3. One of the proposals is to grade units. Do you agree that units should be graded A-C rather than pass/fail?

YES

NO

Explanation

COURSES SHOULD NOT BE UNITISED.

Q4. Do you want graded units to count towards the final award?

YES

NO

Explanation

Q5. Which option for introducing compensatory arrangements would you most support?

Please tick one option or suggest an alternative.

- Option A Extend the range of grading in course awards to grade E.
- Option B Recognise unit passes only.
- Option C Compensatory award at the level of the course studied with no grade awarded.
- Option D Compensatory grade C award at the level of course below that studied.
- Option E Compensatory grade A award at the level of course below that studied.

Explanation/other suggestion

PUPILS SHOULD SIT EXAMINATIONS AT TWO LEVELS, IF NECESSARY.

Q6. The proposed name for the new award is General (SCQF 4) and Advanced General (SCQF 5). Please indicate if you are content with this suggestion. If not please offer an alternative and explain your choice.

YES

NO

Explanation/other suggestion

GENERAL AND CREDIT WILL LEAD SOME CONTINUITY TO THE EXERCISE.

PROPOSAL 3

New awards in literacy and in numeracy will be available at SCQF levels 3 to 5.

Curriculum for Excellence brings a sustained focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills in our young people. To help strengthen this focus, the Scottish Government is proposing new separate awards to accredit young people's literacy and numeracy skills – the Scottish Certificate for Literacy and the Scottish Certificate for Numeracy. The awards will be available at SCQF levels 3 to 5. The expectation is that all young people will be presented for these awards unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so. The intention is also to ensure that the structure of these awards is flexible enough to make them available to adult learners.

Q7. Do you agree with the proposal to offer literacy and numeracy awards at a range of SCQF levels (3 to 5)? If not please offer an alternative.

YES NO

Explanation/other suggestion

LITERACY AND NUMERACY SHOULD CONTINUE BE EMBEDDED IN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS COURSES AND ASSESSED AS AT PRESENT.

Q8. National Qualifications at Access 3 (SCQF level 3) do not have an external examination. Do you agree that any new awards in literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 3 should have an external examination?

YES NO

Explanation

THE FOCUS OF TOO MUCH OF THE WORK COMPLETED BY THE TARGET GROUP WILL BECOME TOO NARROW.

Q9. Should the weighting between the internal and external assessments for the literacy and numeracy awards be equal? If not should more weight be attached to the internal or external assessment? Please explain.

- Equal weight
 More weight to internal assessment
 More weight to external assessment

Explanation

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. IT DOES NOT GIVE RELIABLE RESULTS.

Q10. When should young people be assessed for literacy and numeracy awards?

Please tick one option.

- Option A At the end of S3 as part of the summer diet of examinations.
 Option B In the December of S4 as part of a winter diet of examinations.
 Option C At the end of S4 as part of the summer diet of examinations.

Explanation

IF WE MUST HAVE AN ASSESSMENT THEN HAVING IT WITHIN THE MAIN SUMMER DIET WILL ASSIST IN AVOIDING A NARROW FOCUS ON NUMERACY AND LITERACY.

PROPOSAL 4

Increased flexibility to better meet the needs of young people. Suggestions include:

- studying National Qualifications over 18 months (or 2 years) as well as one year;
- introducing a winter diet of examinations; and
- encouraging the most able young people to bypass lower level qualifications and to study Highers from S4 onwards.

Q11. Do you agree with the proposal to allow the study of Highers and Advanced Highers over 12 months, 18 months and 2 years?

YES

NO

Explanation

FOR SOME SUBJECTS IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO DO SO.
FOR OTHERS, E.G. MATHEMATICS, IT IS NOT.

Q12. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a winter diet of examinations?

YES

NO

Q13. If you agree with the proposal to introduce a winter diet of examinations, what subjects and levels of qualifications might first be offered?

Suggestions

WE HAVE NO PREFERENCE.

Q14. Would you agree with changes to the system which allowed the most able students to bypass qualifications at lower levels and begin study for Highers from S4 onwards?

YES

NO

Explanation

IN SOME SUBJECTS THIS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. IN MATHS ALL TOPICS UP TO HIGHER, PRESENTLY COVERED, WILL, BY AND LARGE, NEED TO BE COVERED IN FUTURE.

Q15. Do you have any other ideas for increasing flexibility within the senior phase (S4 to S6)?

Suggestions

NONE.

TIMELINE

Q16. It is intended that planning for the new curriculum should commence in 2008/09, with approaches based on the new curriculum introduced from school year 2009/10. This suggests that the new and revised qualifications and any increased flexibilities would be required from 2012/13 onwards to ensure smooth progression between the curriculum and qualifications. Is this indicative timeline realistic? Please comment on any implications to be considered.

YES

NO

Comment

A NEW MATHS EXAM BASED CLOSELY ON GENERAL/INT1 AND CREDIT/INT2 COULD BE INTRODUCED WITHIN THE GIVEN TIMESCALE. ANYTHING ELSE WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME TO DEVELOP COURSE MATERIALS. NEED WE MENTION THE INTRODUCTION OF STANDARD GRADE AND HIGHER STILL?