



27 January 2003

Dear Colleagues

2003 CCEA GCSE in Languages
Briefing Note on transferring raw mark scores on test papers to uniform marks

We are pleased to enclose a copy of a Briefing Note, which sets out to explain how raw mark scores achieved in a language examination are transferred to uniform marks and then converted into subject grades.

We hope this will help to demystify the grading process for the new GCSE in 2003. We would alert you to the fact that the figures in the examples on pages 3, 4 and 5 have been calculated using Summer 2002 data from a Modern Languages Examination. As the raw mark totals for 2002 differ from those to be used in 2003, they have been recalculated by scaling and expressed according to the 2003 mark totals.

GCE AS and A2 2003

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of a number of points relating to AS/A2 for 2003:

- With regard to word length in AS3 and A23, candidates will be instructed to write **in least 200 words** at AS and **in at least 250 words** at A2. Previously, candidates were instructed to write 200 words at AS and 250 words at A2. This should be seen as a relaxation of the restriction on word length.
- With regard to the speaking tests at both AS and A2, we would like to remind candidates that they should choose their Presentation topics from the appropriate Contexts for Learning areas according to level and to ensure that AO4 is adequately covered.
- Candidates repeating speaking tests are not allowed to use the same Presentation topic as used in first sitting. Likewise, candidates taking speaking tests at A2 should not use the same Presentation topic as used in the AS speaking test.
- In regard to the Literature and Society section of AS3 and A23, candidates are also reminded that they should not answer a question on a theme already addressed in the Presentation part of the speaking tests.

- The date for the return of candidate pro formas for the presentation components of AS1 and A21 will be **Friday, 04 April 2003**. You will receive confirmation of this from our Script Processing Section. (Orla Kirk Tel: 022 9026 1268 okirk@ccea.org.uk) The AS and A2 pro formas have been amalgamated onto one single document. It will be important to tick the appropriate box in the top right-hand corner of the form. Eg

AS

A2

GCE AS and A2 2004 and beyond

- Further to the publication of the Tomlinson Inquiry into A Levels in December 2002, there may be minor changes to AS and A2. Any such amendments and refinements will not be introduced before 2003 and it is likely that any changes to AS will be planned for implementation in 2004 and changes for A2 implemented in 2005. There will be early notification of any such changes to all centres.

As part of our ongoing improvement to the CCEA GCE specifications, we would welcome your suggestions for new literary texts/films for all languages.

GOML

We have also enclosed a copy of the template, which will be used by our examiners for the production of GOML question papers and hope you will find this informative. A version of this document will soon be posted to our website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if we can be of any further assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

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