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For the attention of the
Head of Citizenship Studies

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Dear Colleague

**Notification of changes to:
GCSE (Short Course) Citizenship Studies (3280)**

3280_01 Citizenship Studies, Written Examination

After consultation with centres and those involved in the assessment of this component, as from the summer 2006 series the duration of this examination will now be **one hour and thirty minutes**. The demands of the question paper will not change but candidates will have an additional 15 minutes to complete the paper.

3280_02 Citizenship Studies Activity, Coursework

Again, after discussion with centres and moderators, revised versions of the 3280_02 Assessment Marking Criteria and the Candidate Response Form have been issued. These alterations take immediate effect and should be implemented for the summer 2006 examination series onwards. Where it is not viable for work to be submitted using these documents - for instance where a cohort have completed this component prior to receiving this statement of notification, centres should notify the Assessment Leader in writing (contact details above). For the summer 2006 examination series only, it will be possible for submissions to be moderated by a senior moderator who will apply the original criteria to ensure that candidates are not unduly disadvantaged. This can only take place with prior agreement from the Assessment Leader to ensure the work is allocated appropriately.

The changes to the Assessment Marking Criteria are not designed to alter the demands of the assessment objectives but to further clarify the distinctions between levels to assist teachers in their assessment of candidates.

Both the revised Assessment Marking Criteria and the new version of the Candidate Response Form are enclosed with this letter for your reference. These documents will shortly be posted on the Edexcel website (<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gcse/citizenship/sc/3280>) where a Microsoft Word version is available for candidates who wish to complete this form electronically.

It is still a requirement that the form be printed for submission and both teacher and candidate authentication statements signed by hand. Electronic submission of this form to the allocated moderator is not permissible at this point in time.

If you have any queries or concerns over any of the above or are seeking advice regarding the suitability of proposed Citizenship coursework activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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GCSE Citizenship Studies