

Curricular Information Evening - 06 Oct 08

National Assessment Banks

What are NABs?

- End of Unit, National Tests - They are SQA requirements
- Every subject has at least three NABs (sometimes four) which cover the basic outcomes of the units in every SQA course and test for knowledge at the minimum standard
- NABs are set at level C (minimum competence)

What does minimum competence mean?

- If a pupil manages to get 100% of the NAB test correct, this only means that they are coping very well with questions at level C (the pass grade)
- In some cases NABs are set below the minimum competence level at the borderline C pass

Why do pupils need to take NAB tests?

- For every COURSE AWARD, each pupil must pass all of the NABs in the subject areas studied and pass the final exam in the May exam diet (S4/S5/S6)
- If some NABs are failed but the final outcome is passed, students will not achieve a full COURSE AWARD

What happens if a pupil fails a NAB?

- If a NAB is failed, then the pupil is offered the chance to re-take the NAB after a two week period to give the teacher and pupil the opportunity for discussion on where the pupil has gone off track
- An alarm bell should ring at this point

Alarm Bells

- Go back and think about the NAB being set at minimum competence . . .
- If a pupil has failed a NAB:
 1. Has enough studying taken place prior to the NAB?
 2. Ten more teaching days will pass before the NAB is retaken, giving double work . . . develop learning in the continuous flow in class lessons and the re-learning of the content within the failed NAB

Do pupils get the chance to practice NABs?

- In many subject areas NABs cover parts of the course e.g. In Music, one of the NABs is an element of the course and requires pupils to complete coursework to pass the NAB
- In other areas, students get a chance to practice NAB style questions and NAB style practice papers e.g. In Maths, practice NABs are featured in the text books used