As a recently retired secondary teacher I had not seen a less helpful curriculum until this appeared in Scottish schools, in my 38 years’ experience. I have presented pupils for O grade, Higher, A level- (university of London), advanced higher Biology.

The underlying ideals and principles are worthy, but the guidelines given to schools was ill thought out, assessment heavy and so not immediately practical, and ultimately way too insubstantial to be useful at a time when the whole of the scottish educational system was changing, leaving staff tearing their hair out and trying to decipher what was required of pupils and staff alike.

SQA examinations seem now to be developed by underdeveloped and inexperienced setters and checks to correct mistakes are lacking.

Secondary staff are stretched to the limit in their quest to do the best for their pupils despite the poor support given.