

The New Qualifications — New Opportunities Shaping your Workforce



New qualifications are being introduced in Scotland from August 2013. The new **Nationals**, **Highers** and **Advanced Highers** will replace the existing Access, Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

Why are new qualifications needed?



In 2010, Curriculum for Excellence introduced a new way of learning to secondary schools and colleges with the aim of equipping learners for life in the 21st century.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has designed the new qualifications with the interests of the learner at heart. They will help young people demonstrate the knowledge and skills they've acquired at school or college, and enable them to prepare for further learning, training and employment.

The new, simplified format of the qualifications will also be easier for learners, parents/carers and prospective employers to understand.

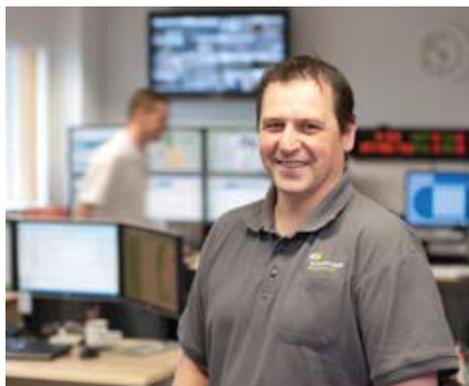
What is changing?

This table shows which of the current qualifications the new National Qualifications will replace:

SCQF level	Current National Qualifications	Replaced by	New National Qualifications
1 and 2	Access 1 and Access 2	▶	National 1 and National 2
3	Access 3 Standard Grade (Foundation level)	▶	National 3
4	Standard Grade (General level) Intermediate 1	▶	National 4
5	Standard Grade (Credit level) Intermediate 2	▶	National 5
6	Higher	▶	Higher (new)
7	Advanced Higher	▶	Advanced Higher (new)

You can find out more about the new qualifications and how they compare with existing qualifications on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Visit www.sqa.org.uk/readyreckoner



When are the new qualifications being introduced?



The new Nationals will be available in schools and colleges from August 2013. The first learners to attain the new **National 1**, **National 2**, **National 3**, **National 4** and/or **National 5** could potentially leave school or college in June 2014.

Many young people will continue to study at school or college after they turn 16 and some will go on to study for the new **Higher** and **Advanced Higher**. The first of these learners will leave school or college in June 2015 or June 2016 respectively.

Some schools and local authorities may choose to introduce the new qualifications at different times, so these timescales could vary across the country.

How will the new qualifications be graded?

Courses at **National 2**, **National 3** and **National 4** will be assessed as 'pass' or 'fail'.

Courses at **National 5**, **Higher** and **Advanced Higher** will be graded A to D, or 'No Award'.

All Courses will contain Units that are assessed and marked throughout the year by teachers and lecturers, just as they are at present. These are assessed as pass or fail in all National Qualifications.

If a Course assessment is failed (No Award), credit will still be given for the Units achieved at that level.



New Awards

As well as developing new National Qualifications, SQA has developed a number of new Awards that complement both new and current qualifications and give young people more ways to demonstrate their achievements at school and college.

To find out more, visit www.sqa.org.uk/awards

Other National Qualifications



As well as the new qualifications, we will continue to offer other types of National Qualifications that support learners' wider achievements. These include:

- **Skills for Work Courses.** These Courses introduce learners to the demands and expectations of the world of work. They offer opportunities to acquire generic employability skills needed for success in the workplace, through a variety of practical experiences linked with a particular vocational area. Learners taking these Courses will normally spend time learning in a different environment; at their local college, another training provider or in a workplace.

Find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork

- **National Progression Awards and National Certificates.** These qualifications assess skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas and are designed to prepare learners for employment, career development or progression to further study at Higher National level.

Find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/npa

Core Skills



Core Skills continue to be an important part of our qualifications system. Some of our qualifications will provide automatic certification of Core Skills; this means that when a learner achieves the qualification, their Core Skills profile will automatically be updated to show that they have achieved the Core Skill at the corresponding SCQF level.

Find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/cfecoresskills

Where can I find out more?

Isabel Millar is part of SQA's Curriculum for Excellence Liaison Team. Isabel works with employers, training providers and stakeholders to develop their understanding of the new National Qualifications. Isabel can be contacted by email at isabel.millar@sqa.org.uk or by phone on 07834 843 031.

Our website (www.sqa.org.uk/cfeforemployers) is full of useful information to help you understand more about the new National Qualifications, including how they have been developed and how we are working with teachers and lecturers to introduce them.

You can also keep in touch with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ScottishQualificationsAuthority, follow us on Twitter [@sqanews](https://twitter.com/sqanews) and subscribe to our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/SQAonline



Other useful links

- For information on how SQA can help your business, visit www.sqa.org.uk/workwithus
- Find out how to help young people into work by visiting www.employersandyoungpeople.org
- Keep in touch with what's happening across Scotland's education community by visiting www.engageforeducation.org
- Stay up to date with Scottish qualifications and learning programmes and how they compare with each other by visiting www.scaf.org.uk



it can
be done  **SQA**

curriculum for excellence



CfE Liaison Team
www.sqa.org.uk/cfeteam
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