

SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

**St Joseph's Academy
is an SCQF Bronze Ambassador School**



What is the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework?

The SCQF is the national qualifications framework for Scotland. The framework is designed to help individuals understand and compare various qualifications in Scotland.

Using the SCQF young people can plan their learner journey realising that there are different learning routes which can be taken to arrive at the same destination. Engaging with the framework enables staff, pupils and parents/carers to understand the parity of esteem between traditional national qualifications and other qualifications such as Skills for Work, National Certificates, Foundation Apprenticeships and National Progression Awards.

The SCQF has 12 levels and each level indicates the level of difficulty of a particular qualification. Every qualification has SCQF credit points and these are included on a young person's SQA Exam certificate.

[SCQF Video](#)

[What's the SCQF in my SQA Certificate?](#)

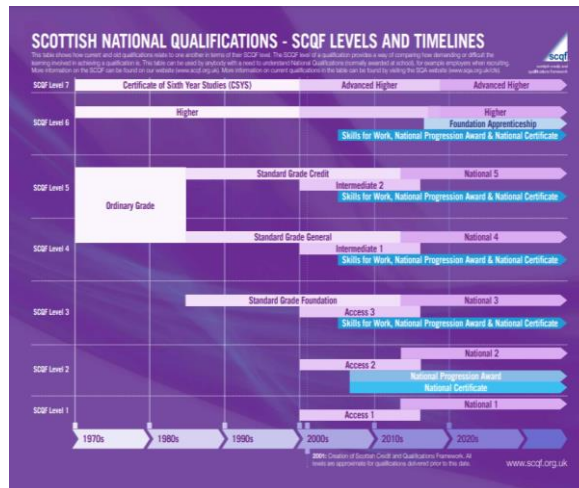


SCOTTISH NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - SCQF LEVELS AND TIMELINES

National qualifications in Scotland have changed four times since the 1960s. Ordinary Grades, Standard Grades, Access, Intermediate and Nationals can make the current qualification system confusing for some. The creation of the SCQF in 2001 helps clarify levels and compare old qualifications with new.

The Old v New diagram explains this further. This can be found by clicking the link.

[Old v New](#)



QUALIFICATION	Key Information
Advanced Higher	This qualification was introduced as part of the 'Higher 200' reform. It is at SCQF level 7 and is awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) (www.sqa.org.uk/higher200).
Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS)	The CSYS provides the SCQF and is equivalent to have been at SCQF level 7. The qualification was awarded from 1975 until 1999 on a separate certificate called the Certificate of Sixth Year Studies by the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). From 2001 to 2002 it was awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). It was replaced by Advanced Higher between 2002 and 2003.
Higher	The Higher has been awarded for over 100 years. During that time it has undergone a number of reforms. It has always had the option of providing qualifications for progression to Higher Education or employment. SCQF level 6 is the standard level for progression to HE. From 1982 to 1983 it was awarded on the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) by the Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board (SCEB), which later became the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). Since 2001, it has been awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) (www.sqa.org.uk/higher).
Ordinary Grade (O Grade)	The O Grade was awarded from 1962 until 1998. It provides the SCQF and is equivalent to have been at SCQF levels 4 and 5. It was awarded on the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) by the Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board (SCEB), which later became the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). It was gradually replaced by Standard Grade from 1998.
Standard Grade	Standard Grade was introduced over a number of years from 1984 – different subjects were introduced in different years. It is awarded at three levels – Credit SCQF level 5, General SCQF level 4 and Foundation SCQF level 3. It was awarded on the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) by the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). Since 2001 it has been awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). It has been replaced by National Qualifications at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5.
Intermediate 1 & 2	These qualifications were introduced as part of the 'Higher 200' reform. Intermediate 1 and 2 are at SCQF levels 4 and 5 respectively. They were awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). They have been replaced by National Qualifications at levels 4 and 5.
Access 1, 2 & 3	These qualifications were introduced as part of the 'Higher 200' reform. Access qualifications are at SCQF levels 1, 2 and 3. They were awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). They have been replaced by National Qualifications at levels 1, 2 and 3.
National 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	National Qualifications were introduced as part of Curriculum for Excellence and have been awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) since 2014 (www.sqa.org.uk/national).
National Progression Award (NPA)	NPA, as at SCQF Levels 2, 3 and 4 are delivered in partnership between schools, colleges, employers and training providers. They're aimed at assessing a defined set of skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas, relating to National Occupational Standards, which are the basis of NSQs.
Skills for Work (SW)	Available from 2005, Skills for Work courses are designed to introduce learners to the demands and expectations of the world of work. The courses of SCQF levels 3-6 offer learners opportunities to learn these skills through a variety of practical experiences that are linked to vocational areas. Learners may spend some of their time at a school/college, training provider or employer.
Foundation Apprenticeship	Foundation Apprenticeships (FA) at SCQF level 6 were first introduced in 2014. They provide work-based learning opportunities for secondary school pupils making their own career-related choices. They were designed and developed with industry. Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), and an employer by sectors of the economy will current skills shortages and projected future growth.
National Certificates	The FA programme is delivered through partnerships between schools, a third sector or training provider, and local employers.
National Certificates	National Certificate progress points for employment, career development or progression to more advanced study at HNC/HND level. They also develop transferable knowledge including Core Skills. These certificates are awarded at 18-19 year olds or adults in full-time education and are at SCQF Levels 2,4. (www.sqa.org.uk/national)



THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	SVQs/MAs	
12			↑	Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship SVQ 5
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 3
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher		↑		Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ 3
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 2
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ 1
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards				
1	National 1, Awards				

Senior Phase Curriculum

Over the past few years our Senior Phase curriculum offer has been extended with the introduction of a number of new courses.

Subject departments offer National Qualifications ranging from National 3 to Higher, with a few offering Advanced Higher.

In addition, pupils have the opportunity to choose courses aligned to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Our School College Partnership remains on offer and young people have the opportunity to engage in vocational qualifications delivered at SCQF Levels 4 - 7.



SCQF at St Joseph's Academy

SCQF Level 5

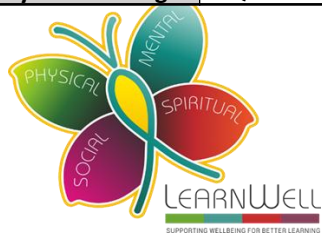
All qualifications below are offered at SCQF Levels 3 and 4

Faculty	Qualification	Course Title	Faculty	Qualification	Course Title
English	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	English	Social Subjects	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Geography
	SCQF Level 5	ESOL		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	History
Expressive Arts	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Art & Design		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Modern Studies
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Drama		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Travel & Tourism
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Music		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Criminology
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Music Technology	Modern Languages	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	French
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Skills for Work Creative Industries		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	German
	SCQF Level 5	Music Theatre		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Spanish
Mathematics	SCQF Level 5	Creative Thinking	Physical Education	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Physical Education
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Applications of Mathematics		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Skills for Work Sports & Recreation
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Mathematics		NPA SCQF Level 5	Team Sports & Fitness
SCQF Level 5	Personal Finance	NPA SCQF Level 5		Football	
Science	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Biology	Technologies	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Business Management
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Chemistry		National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Computing Science
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Physics			
	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Skills for Work Health Sector			
Religious Education	National 5 (SCQF Level 5)	Religious and Moral Philosophical Studies			
Ayrshire College	SCQF Level 4 and 5	Various Courses			



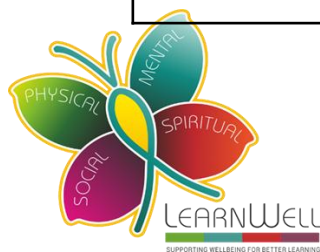
SCQF at St Joseph's Academy

SCQF Level 6					
Faculty	Qualification	Course Title	Faculty	Qualification	Course Title
English	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	English	Social Subjects	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Geography
Expressive Arts	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Art & Design		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	History
	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Drama		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Modern Studies
	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Music		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Politics
	SCQF Level 6	Music Theatre		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Environmental Science
Mathematics	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Mathematics		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Psychology
	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Application of Mathematics	Modern Languages	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	French
Science	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Biology		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	German
	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Chemistry		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Spanish
	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Physics	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Business Management	
Religious Education	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Religious and Moral Philosophical Studies	Technologies	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Computing Science
Physical Education	Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Physical Education		Higher (SCQF Level 6)	Administration
		SCQF Level 6	Leadership Award		
Ayrshire College	SCQF Level 6	Various Courses			



SCQF at St Joseph's Academy

SCQF Level 7		
Faculty	Qualification	Course Title
English	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	English
Expressive Arts	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Art & Design
	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Music
Mathematics	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Mathematics
Science	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Biology
	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Chemistry
	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Physics
Social Subjects	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	History
Modern Languages	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	French
	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Spanish
	Scottish Baccalaureate	Languages
Physical Education	Advanced Higher (SCQF Level 7)	Physical Education
Young Applicants in Scotland Scheme Open University Short Courses Level 7		



SCQF at St Joseph's Academy in S3

Ayrshire College In-School Delivery	SCQF Level
Childcare	4

What might a learner journey look like?

At St Joseph's we realise all of our learners are unique some preferring traditional courses while others opting for the learning experience offered by vocational type courses.

To enable us to offer a curriculum which aims to cater for all our young people we engage in the support offered from Ayrshire College and a number of local partners.

The next few slides provide an overview of some learner journeys.



Example Learner Journey 1

BSc Microbiology (Hons)

Entry Requirements

4 Highers at BBCC including Higher Biology and Chemistry plus National 5 Chemistry at C, Biology at C, and Mathematics at B

Route – Achieve at least 4 Highers at school and apply



BSc Microbiology (Hons)

Entry Requirements

HNC (Level 7) Graded Unit B The essential subjects are appropriate Science units + Mathematics

Route

National 5 (Level 5) qualifications

NQ Applied Sciences Level 5

NQ Applied Sciences Level 6

HNC Applied Science (must achieve a B in graded unit_



Example Learner Journey 2

Skills Sector (Crosshouse Hospital) for young people with Additional Support Needs

Route

S3 Various options including access to Lifeskills courses via Support for Learning

S4 – S6 National 3 and 4 qualifications (Level 3 and 4) and access to college taster options at the Supported Learning Centre within Ayrshire College

Leave at end of S4, S5 or S6 having secured a place on the Routes to Careers – Employment (Level 4) at Ayrshire College Supported Learning Centre. Completion of this course enabling progression to Skills Sector, NC Level 4/5 course in the wider curriculum or employment.



Example Learner Journey 3

HNC Sports Coaching and Development (Level 7)

Entry Requirements

2 Highers (Level 6) A-C

Route – Achieve at least 2 Highers at school and apply

HNC Sports Coaching and Development (Level 7)

Entry Requirements

Pass in a relevant NC Course Level 6

Route

National 5 (Level 5) qualifications at school
NC Sports and Fitness Level 5
Advanced Sport and Fitness Level 6



Need more information?

Should you require more information in relation to any areas of the presentation please use the contact page on the school website.

Additional information can be found on the SCQF website: <https://scqf.org.uk/>



DYW | Developing the
Young Workforce



scqf scottish credit and
qualifications framework



Skills
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