



THE FUTURE OF QUALIFICATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS IN SCOTLAND – AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW

PHASE ONE - VISION AND PRINCIPLES

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Video Introduction

- ▶ You can watch a short video covering the points covered in this PowerPoint.
- ▶ The video was produced by students from Glasgow Caledonian University, and will be available during the week beginning 15 August, from the Qualifications Reform webpage.
- ▶ [Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

The Context

- ▶ The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has appointed Professor Louise Hayward to provide independent advice on the **Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland**.
- ▶ This is an **Independent Review** – the work of the Review, conclusions and recommendations will be made independently of Scottish Government.
- ▶ The Review has been designed to be **inclusive and participatory**. Everyone who has a stake in the Future of Qualifications and Assessments will have an opportunity to have their say.
- ▶ **School and college communities** including teachers, lecturers, learners and their parents and carers have a crucial role.

Why do qualifications and assessments in Scotland need to change?

- ▶ **The world is changing - We face new environmental, social and economic challenges.** These global trends are already affecting individual lives and will continue to do so for decades to come. Education systems around the world are changing as each nation seeks to ensure that students in their schools and colleges are well prepared to face the challenges that the future is likely to bring.
- ▶ **Covid Pandemic Concerns include:**
 - The impact of SQA moderation processes on particular groups of young people
 - A perception that there has been a reduction in trust in the system
- ▶ **Debate in Scotland around qualifications and assessments is not new. Common concerns include:**
 - 'too much time in the senior phase spent preparing for exams'
 - 'negative impact of stress on some young people'
 - the impact on learning 'if it isn't in the exam, we are not interested in learning it'

Why do qualifications and assessments in Scotland need to change?

The previous Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney, invited an international organisation (OECD) to review Curriculum for Excellence – Broad General Education (BGE) and the Senior Phase in Scotland

► **Two reports were published**

- *Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence Into the Future (2021)*
- *Upper-secondary education student assessment in Scotland A comparative perspective (2021)*

In addition, Professor Ken Muir's report on the future of national education agencies

- *Putting Learners at the Centre (2022)*

Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence Into the Future (OECD, 2021)

Key Conclusions:

- ▶ Curriculum for Excellence remains a good basis for education in Scotland.
- ▶ There should be a better relationship between BGE and the Senior Phase.
- ▶ There needs to be changes in the Senior Phase to make it consistent with CfE's vision.

Recommendations

Enhance learners' experiences in the Senior Phase by adapting:

- ▶ Learning, teaching and assessment practices and the structure of learning pathways to help learners develop CfE's four capacities continuously.
- ▶ Identify approaches to student assessment (in school and externally) that match **the four capacities** and CfE philosophy
- ▶ Re-develop a sample-based evaluation system to collect robust and reliable data necessary to support curriculum reviews and decision making.

OECD - Stobart Report on the Senior Phase (2021)

Three major themes identified

- ▶ External assessments could be more innovative to capture a wider range of student capabilities;
- ▶ The role of teacher led assessment could be reconsidered; and
- ▶ Academic and vocational strands could be better integrated with the assessment system to offer a broader range of curriculum options.

Professor Ken Muir Putting Learners at the Centre (2022)

Two key themes:

- ▶ The need to put learners at the centre of the education system and education reform; and
- ▶ The need for cultural and 'mind-set' change within the system.

Timetable for the Review

Phase one

- ▶ Draft Vision Statement and draft Principles – Ending Friday 2 September

What should the future **Vision Statement** be? What **Principles** (ideas) should we use to design the future system for qualifications and assessment?

Phase two

- ▶ Options for Change – October 2022

In Phase two, we will invite comments on: **Options for the Future of Qualifications and Assessment**

Phase three

- ▶ Interim Report January 2023

In Phase three we will invite comments on ***the direction of travel set out in an Interim Report.***

A final report will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills in March 2023

Phase one: Draft Vision Statement

What do you think of the proposed draft Vision Statement for the Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland?

Draft Vision Statement

Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland

Qualifications and assessment in Scotland should reflect what matters in the curriculum, recognise every learner's achievements and provide evidence to inspire the next steps in their learning journey.

This Vision for the Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland will:

- ▶ Recognise the diversity of achievements of every individual learner;
- ▶ Provide a solid foundation for the future for all learners, that will support the next step in their life journey be that in employment, further education, higher education, or through other contributions to society;
- ▶ Promote a wide-range of opportunities that meet the needs of all learners;
- ▶ Recognise the rights of children, encourage well-being and support the lifelong development of citizens, creating a positive future for Scotland and the wider world;
- ▶ Be recognised and valued by learners, parents/carers, schools, colleges, universities, employers and by society generally.

Phase one: draft Principles

What do you think of the proposed draft Principles for the Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland?

1. Be responsive to the fast-changing needs of individual learners and Scotland in an increasingly complex and globalised society.
2. Be inclusive both in design and development.
3. Reflect the aspirations of CfE.
4. Recognise the achievements of every learner.
5. Be clear, coherent and understood by all as part of a lifelong learning journey.
6. Support flexible approaches to assessment.
7. Be adaptable and kept under review to ensure that the needs of all young people and society continue to be met.

Responding to Phase one

Please complete your response to Phase one by accessing the online survey by 5 pm on Friday 2 September.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/qualificationsreform/>

Further information

- ▶ Further information on the Review can be found here: [Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- ▶ If you have any questions, please email qualificationsreform@gov.scot

Thank you for sharing your ideas on this crucial topic