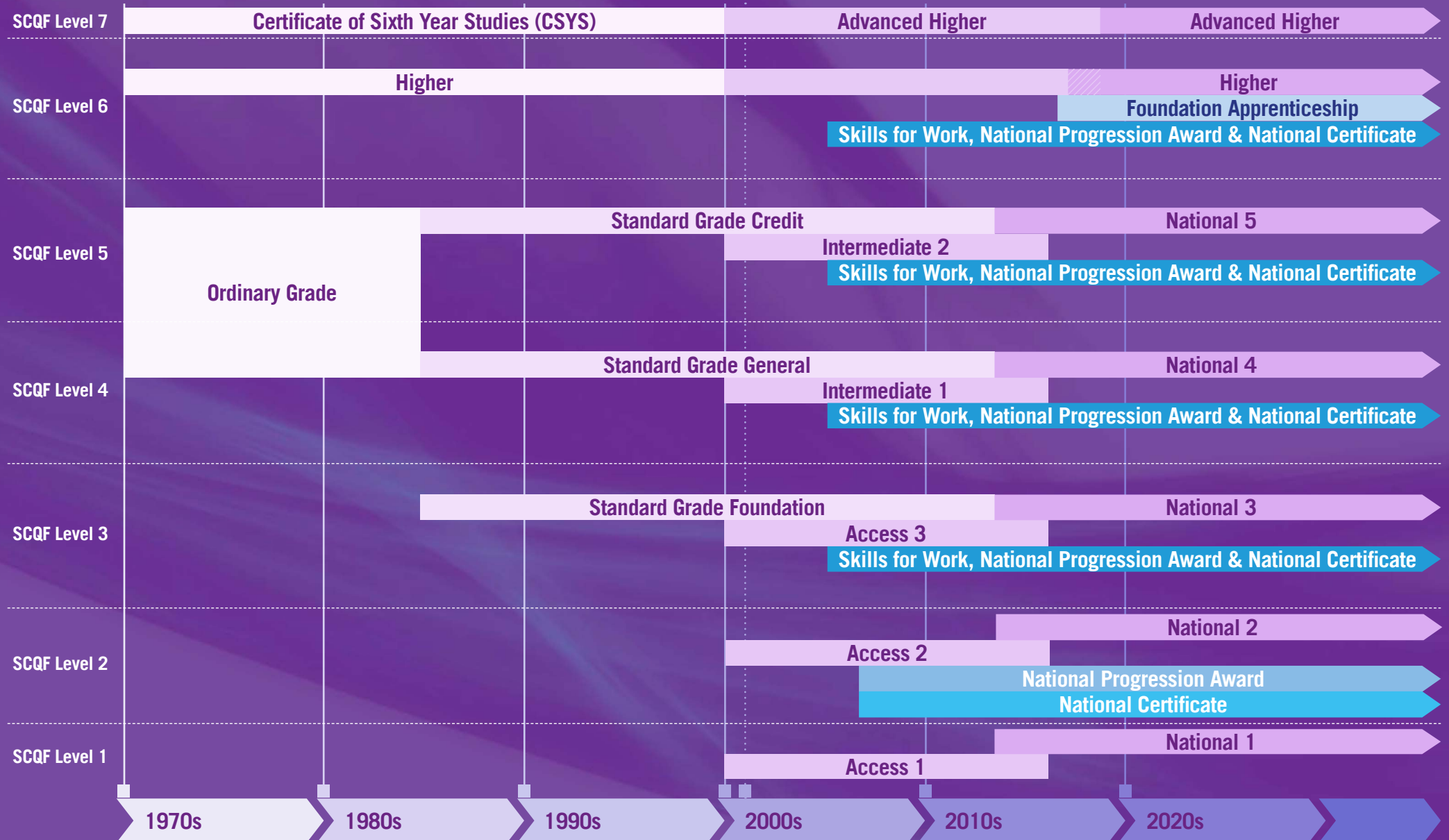


# SCOTTISH NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - SCQF LEVELS AND TIMELINES

This table shows how current and old qualifications relate to one another in terms of their SCQF level. The SCQF level of a qualification provides a way of comparing how demanding or difficult the learning involved in achieving a qualification is. This table can be used by anybody with a need to understand National Qualifications (normally awarded at school), for example employers when recruiting. More information on the SCQF can be found on our website ([www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)). More information on current qualifications in the table can be found by visiting the SQA website ([www.sqa.org.uk/cfe](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfe)).



2001: Creation of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. All levels are approximate for qualifications delivered prior to this date.

# QUALIFICATIONS – KEY INFORMATION

QUALIFICATION	
<b>Advanced Higher</b>	This qualification was introduced as part of the “Higher Still “ reform. It is at SCQF level 7 and is awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) ( <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html">www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html</a> ).
<b>Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS)</b>	The CSYS predates the SCQF and is estimated to have been at SCQF level 7. The qualification was awarded from 1970 until 1999 on a separate certificate called the Certificate of Sixth Year Studies by the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). From 2000 to 2002 it was awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). It was replaced by Advanced Higher between 2000 and 2002.
<b>Higher</b>	The Higher has been awarded for over 100 years. During that time it has undergone a number of reforms. It has always had the purpose of providing qualifications for progression to Higher Education or employment. SCQF level 6 is the standard level for progression to HE. From 1963 to 1982 it was awarded on the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) by the Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board (SCEEB), which later became the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). Since 2000, it has been awarded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC) by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). ( <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html">www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html</a> ).
<b>Ordinary Grade (O Grade)</b>	The O Grade was awarded from 1962 until 1990. It predates the SCQF and is estimated 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 (SCEEB), which later became the Scottish Examination Board (SEB). It was gradually replaced by Standard Grade from 1986.
<b>Standard Grade</b>	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 2000 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.
<b>Intermediate 1 &amp; 2</b>	These qualifications were introduced as part of the “Higher Still” 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.
<b>Access 1, 2 &amp; 3</b>	These qualifications were introduced as part of the “Higher Still” reforms. 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.
<b>National 1, 2, 3, 4 &amp; 5</b>	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 ( <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html">www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.html</a> ).
<b>National Progression Award (NPA)</b>	NPAs are at SCQF Levels 2-6 and 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, linking to National Occupational Standards, which are the basis of SVQs.
<b>Skills for Work (SfW)</b>	Available from 2005, Skills for Work courses are designed to introduce learners to the demands and expectations of the world of work. The courses at 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 local college, training provider or employer.
<b>Foundation Apprenticeship</b>	Foundation Apprenticeships (FA) at SCQF level 6 were first introduced in 2014. They provide work-based learning opportunities for secondary school pupils making their senior phase subject choices. FAs were designed and developed with industry, Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), and are aligned to key sectors of the economy with current skills shortages and projected future jobs growth. The FA programme is delivered through partnerships between schools, a local college or learning provider, and local employers.
<b>National Certificates</b>	National Certificates prepare people 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 aimed at 16-18 year olds or adults in full-time education and are at SCQF Levels 2-6. <a href="https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46552.html">https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46552.html</a>