



SCQF

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework and Lifelong Learning

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What is the SCQF?

The SCQF brings together three Scottish qualification systems to create a single integrated framework which can be used to describe all kinds of learning for a range of purposes.

The SCQF

- Includes school, college, university and vocational education qualifications
- 12 levels from basic Access to PhD
- All learning credit-rated
- Opportunities for articulation and credit transfer



The Scottish Credit and
Qualifications Framework

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

12		Doctorate		12
11		Masters	SVQ 5	11
10		Honours Degree		10
9		Ordinary Degree		9
8		HND / HE Diploma	SVQ 4	8
7	Advanced Higher	HNC / HE Certificate		7
6	Higher		SVQ 3	6
5	Intermediate 2		SVQ 2	5
4	Intermediate 1		SVQ 1	4
3	Access 3			3
2	Access 2			2
1	Access 1			1

SCQF aims

- ◆ To enable employers, learners, and the public in general to understand the full range of Scottish qualifications, how they relate to each other, and how different types of qualifications can contribute to improving the skills of the workforce; and
- ◆ To help people of all ages and circumstances access appropriate education and training over their lifetime to fulfil their personal, social and economic

Objectives

- Clarify relationships between qualifications
- Clarify entry/exit points & progression routes
- Support development of progression routes between qualifications
- Help maximise credit transfer opportunities
- Assist learners to plan progress & learning

What it is NOT

- Central authority
- Owned by Government/any single sector or stakeholder
- Straitjacket
- Means to 'equalise' or force convergence

SCQF Partnership

- Development Partners – Scottish Executive, Quality Assurance Agency (Scotland), Scottish Qualifications Authority, Universities Scotland
- Resources – initially supported by development partners; now receives funding from the Scottish Executive
- The partnership is supported by a Joint Advisory Committee and an Implementation Group
- Current credit rating bodies are SQA and the Higher Education Institutions; we plan to introduce other bodies with the power to credit rate

Credit and level

- 12 level framework
- Levels based on outcomes
- Credit a measure of volume of outcome
- 1 SCQF credit point per 10 notional learning hours - includes formal (programmed) learning and informal (individual) study and all forms of assessment

Definition of credit

- *It is very important to remember that SCQF points are **general credit** points.*
- *They do not carry any guarantee that the credit can be transferred.*
- *It will still be up to individual institutions to decide how much **specific credit** can be granted for previous learning.*

Level Descriptors

- Knowledge and understanding
- Practice: applied knowledge and understanding
- Generic cognitive skills eg evaluation, critical analysis
- Communication, ICT and Numeracy
- Autonomy, accountability and working with others

Challenges

- Full adoption of the SCQF in the main sectors & progression routes
- Extending the framework to other assessed learning
- Managing expectations
- UK, Europe and International arrangements



SCQF and lifelong learning

- Recognise/reward small ‘chunks’ of learning at all levels
- Promote articulation onto formal courses with credit for prior learning
- Develop lifelong learning portfolio and ‘learning log’
- Continuing professional development

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Further information

SCQF website

www.scqf.org.uk

