



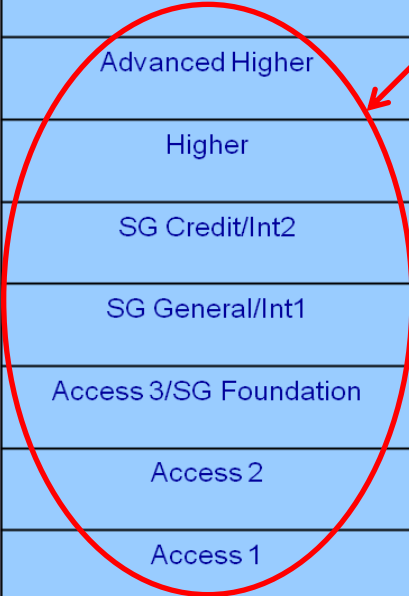
Curriculum for Excellence: the structure and design of new National Qualifications in Scotland

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12	Doctorate
11	Masters
10	Honours Degree
9	Ordinary Degree
8	Higher National Diploma
7	Advanced Higher
6	Higher
5	SG Credit/Int2
4	SG General/Int1
3	Access 3/SG Foundation
2	Access 2
1	Access 1

National Qualifications



Advanced Higher
Higher
National 5
National 4
Access 3
Access 2
Access 1

Developing the new Courses

Dedicated development teams

- ◆ Curriculum Area Review Groups
- ◆ Qualification Design Teams
- ◆ Subject Working Groups -

www.sqa.org.uk/subjectworkinggroups



Clear roles & remits

Subject Expertise:
CARGs/QDTs

Course Design:
Design principles

**Qualifications
Development**

Technical Writing:
QDCs assisted by
SWG

**Assessment
Expertise:**
SQA



New National Courses: design

Courses are Unit based. Units in all Courses will be:

- ◆ more skills-based and less prescriptive
- ◆ more open, flexible evidence requirements
- ◆ flexibility for practitioners to make decisions about assessment methods



Assessment

- ◆ Units assessed pass/fail within centres – as at present
- ◆ Assessment appropriate to subject and level, including case-studies, practical work, performance, project work and exams
- ◆ To be awarded the Course, learners must provide evidence which meets the requirements of all of the Units and a Course assessment (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher)
- ◆ Where appropriate, you could combine Unit assessments to reduce the amount of assessment
- ◆ You can also assess Unit by unit



Adding Value

- ◆ Each Course from National 4 to Advanced Higher will be 160 hours (including a **40-hour added value element**)
- ◆ For National 4, the added value is in an **Added Value Unit**. This will require the learner to demonstrate breadth, challenge and/or application of skills.
- ◆ **National 4 Courses will not be graded.**



Adding Value – National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher

- ◆ For National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the 160 hours will include an added value Course assessment. This will sample breadth, challenge and/or application of skills from across the Course.
- ◆ The Course assessment at these levels will be graded A – D (as at present).



What is NAR?

- ◆ NAR is a joint development between LTS, SQA and the Scottish Government.
- ◆ It is an online resource to support assessment approaches for Curriculum for Excellence and is a key tool to help meet the moderation requirements within Building the Curriculum 5.



Future Developments of NAR

- ◆ provide enhanced functionality to enable practitioners to create, upload and share their own assessment materials
- ◆ SQA will provide exemplified assessment materials that are fully quality assured and ready to use



Literacy and numeracy

- ◆ Freestanding Units at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5
- ◆ A Literacy Unit to be included in English Courses at SCQF levels 3 and 4 (Access 3 and National 4)
- ◆ A Numeracy Unit to be included in Mathematics Courses at SCQF levels 3 and 4 (Access 3 and National 4)
- ◆ A Numeracy Unit to be included in Lifeskills Mathematics Course at SCQF levels 4 and 5 (National 4 and 5)
- ◆ Some, not all, literacy/numeracy skills included in English and Mathematics at SCQF 5 (National 5) – no certification unless learner also completes freestanding Unit



Skills

- ◆ Greater focus on skills development
- ◆ Skills for learning, life and work:
 - Literacy
 - Numeracy
 - Skills for health and well-being
 - Employability, enterprise and citizenship
 - Thinking skills



Timelines

- ◆ **2010** – new curriculum introduced
- ◆ **2012** – publication of new qualifications levels 1 to 6
- ◆ **2013** – last Standard Grades + current Access 1, 2 & 3; publication of new qualifications level 7
- ◆ **2014** – first new qualifications at levels 1 to 5 (Access and National 4 and 5); 'dual run' with existing National Courses
- ◆ **2015** – first new qualifications at level 6 (Higher); 'dual run' with existing National Courses
- ◆ **2016** – first new qualifications at level 7 (Advanced Higher)



What's next?

✓ Nat 4/5 draft Course Rationale and Summary

- ◆ Nat 4/5 draft Course Specifications Apr 11
- ◆ Higher draft Course Rationales and Summaries May 11
- ◆ Higher draft Course Specifications Aug 11
- ◆ Nat 4/5 draft Unit Specifications Aug 11
- ◆ Acc 3 draft Courses Rationales and Summaries Aug 11
- ◆ Higher draft Unit Specifications Nov 11
- ◆ N4/5 draft Course and Unit Assessment Specs Nov 11
- ◆ Acc 3 draft Unit Specifications Dec 11
- ◆ Nat 4/5 draft Unit Support Packs Jan 12
- ◆ **Publication of final Specifications - Apr 12**
- ◆ Assessment support and exemplification
(N4/5 from Apr 12, H from Apr 13. and AH from Apr 14)



Specifications, guidance and support

New ways of specifying requirements – shorter, more open, less prescriptive:

- ◆ **Course Specification:** outlines Course structure and what is required to pass the Course
- ◆ **Unit Specification:** outcomes and assessment standards
- ◆ **Course and Unit Assessment Specifications:** mandatory assessment requirements

More guidance and support – for example:

- ◆ **Course and Unit Support Notes:** guidance on delivering Courses and the Units, approaches to learning and teaching
- ◆ **Exemplification:** approaches to Course and Unit assessment



Suites of Courses – what's new?

- ◆ New broad based Courses at Access 3 and National 4 - business; design & technology; science; and social subjects/sciences.
- ◆ New Courses – computing & information design & manufacture; engineering; environmental science; and practical maths.
- ◆ New practical Courses – cookery; cake baking and finishing; electronics; fabric & textiles; metalworking; and woodworking.
- ◆ New Awards - belief & reflection; health & wellbeing; languages.



Wider Achievement

- ◆ Employability
- ◆ Personal Development
- ◆ Steps to Work
- ◆ NPA Enterprise and Employability
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Personal Finance
- ◆ Safe Road User
- ◆ Internet Safety



CfE Liaison Team

- ◆ How to get involved
 - www.sqa.org.uk/cfeteam
 - www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence
 - www.sqa.org.uk/haveyoursay
 - www.sqa.org.uk/subjectworkinggroups
 - www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts
 - www.sqa.org.uk/appointees





www.sqa.org.uk

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