



Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)

SQA Level 3 Diploma in Shipping and Maritime Operations (QCF) 60002554

Type of qualification	QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework)
Credit	56
Guided Learning Hours	Minimum of 498 to Maximum of 521 Guided Learning Hours
Overview of the Qualification	This is a knowledge based qualification that will be of interest to you if you wish to progress to an officer role within the Merchant Navy.

This qualification is a component of an approved Merchant Navy training programme and is a step toward certification as a Deck or Engineering Officer within the Merchant Navy.

The main purpose of this qualification is to prepare you for further learning to the next stage of the approved Merchant Navy Officer training programme, i.e. progression onto a recognised Higher Education qualification such as the Higher National Diploma programme in Marine Engineering or Nautical Science.

The qualification has two routes:

Deck Officer route – (Deck officers make decisions on loading and cargo operations of the ship and controlling navigation and communications)

Engineering Officer route - (Engineering officers operate and maintain all the mechanical and electrical equipment throughout the ship).

The pathway you choose will be formally recognised on your certificate.

You will receive advice and guidance about which job disciplines best suit your ambition and current skills to ensure you enrol onto the correct route.

To be awarded the qualification, you must complete all of the mandatory units within your chosen route.

Deck Officer route – 12 mandatory units:

- Maritime Sector Overview
- Maritime Employment, Environmental and Health and Safety Practice
- Numeracy for Seafarers
- Mathematics for Seafarers
- Control Vessel Operations
- Vessel Construction and Stability

- Vessel Ropework, Anchoring and Mooring Operations
- Securing a Vessel for Passage
- Nautical Science - an Introduction
- Ship Construction
- Assist with a Vessel's Navigational Watch
- Control Operation of Survival Craft and Rescue Boats

The Deck Officer route will provide you with knowledge and understanding of:

- the economic importance, career pathways and regulatory bodies within the maritime sector
- employee rights, health and safety practices, legislation and regulations relating to the maritime sector
- the importance of protecting the marine environment
- how to use numerical and graphical skills to solve problems related to seafaring
- the features of different vessels and factors that affect their ability to stay afloat
- the importance of ropework and how to safely assist in anchoring and mooring operations
- concepts and systems used in marine navigation and knowledge of nautical/meteorological terms
- the key features of different types of vessel and the purpose of equipment on the ship
- how to control a safe watch, steer the vessel and maintain navigational watch
- how to prepare and launch survival craft and rescue boats and know what action to take following this

Engineering Officer route – 12 mandatory units:

- Maritime Sector Overview
- Maritime Employment, Environmental and Health and Safety Practice
- Numeracy for Seafarers
- Mathematics for Seafarers
- Control Vessel Operations
- Vessel Construction and Stability
- Marine Heat Engines
- Marine Engineering Dynamics
- Basic Vessel Engineering Systems
- Statics for Marine Engineers
- Strength of Materials for Marine Engineers
- Electrical Principles for Marine Engineers

The Engineering Officer route will provide you with the knowledge and understanding of:

- the economic importance, career pathways and regulatory bodies within the maritime sector
- employee rights, health and safety practices, legislation and regulations relating to the maritime sector
- the importance of protecting the marine environment
- using numerical and graphical skills to solve problems related to seafaring
- the features of different vessels and factors that affect their ability to stay afloat
- the key features of different types of vessel and the purpose of equipment on the ship

- how energy is efficiently used on-board
- how machines and systems work
- how to solve engineering problems within a marine context
- how ships' engines and systems work and how to safely maintain these

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification may be of interest to you if you:

- wish to pursue a career at sea
- wish to work within the Maritime industry
- wish to enter the Merchant Navy
- have already achieved a relevant maritime Level 2 qualification and wish to progress on onto the Level 3 Diploma.
- are a Rating already working within the shipping industry
- are wishing to transfer from another career
- are practically minded and enjoy learning in a structured and detailed manner using practical training, and enjoy the challenge that a career in technology and as a Ship's Officer entails.

Age range

You will be an adult aged over 16, to enable you to undertake the industrial placement (sea service) that would follow achievement of this qualification. NB - for the industrial placement you would need to meet the seafarer medical requirements in the UK

Entry requirements

GCSE Grades A-C or Scottish Standard grades at Levels 1-3 are required in the following subjects: English Language, Maths, a Science based subject and at least one other subject.
Or National Certificate/Diploma: in appropriate subjects (such as Engineering or Science)

**Apprenticeships/
Other qualifications**

This qualification appears in the published list of apprenticeships as an Advanced Apprenticeship, but the pathway for using this qualification as an Apprenticeship route for Merchant Navy Officers is not currently available. It may become available when the Merchant Navy Training Board completes its current review of all its training routes later in 2015, but for the moment shipping companies prefer to train future junior officers in the current established ways, as explained on the Careers At Sea website (www.careersatsea.org) – one of which uses this qualification as progression to certification as an officer through an HND.

Another qualification (which will be of interest to you if you wish to pursue the Engineering Officer route) is the SQA 2 Diploma in Marine Vessel Maintenance.

Whilst this Level 3 qualification will provide you with underpinning knowledge and a progression route to the appropriate HND qualification the Level 2 Diploma in Marine Vessel Maintenance would provide you with the practical skills to effectively maintain and repair the equipment on merchant vessels. It is also an integral component of the Merchant Navy training programme for trainee Engineering Officers.

What can the qualification lead to?

This qualification provides part of the approved training programme for Merchant Navy Officers and can enable progression to a job as a junior Officer within the Merchant Navy (following completion of the appropriate HNC/D qualification this qualification progresses onto).
<http://www.mntb.org.uk/en-GB/Training-Frameworks>

If you follow the Deck Officer route this qualification will enable you to progress to the HNC/HND Nautical Studies or to the Foundation Degree in Marine Operations.

If you following the Engineering Officer route this qualification will enable you to progress to the HNC/HND Marine Engineering or the Foundation Degree in Marine Engineering

Following successful completion of the full Merchant Navy Officer training framework (of which this qualification is a mandatory element) you will hold both a Certificate of Competency (issued by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency) as well as a Higher Education qualification that provides you with the skills and knowledge to undertake a role as a junior Ship's Officer.

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Any other relevant information

This qualification is designed by employers to meet their specific needs, and ensures you are “job ready”.

The qualification was developed in conjunction with the Merchant Navy Training Board, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (the UK maritime regulator) (to ensure it is ‘fit for purpose’ to meet the needs of employers and to meet international regulatory requirements).

The qualification is recognised and supported by the Merchant Navy Training Board, the Maritime Skills Alliance and employers working within the maritime sector.

The qualification and training programme it forms part of provides a structured learning platform, a fixed progression route to initial and senior certification, formal work experiences, and a qualification that is recognised and valued across the world

Link to employers "Careers at Sea" website showing both the opportunities that exist for a career at sea, as well as the progression into a career in the maritime sector ashore:

<http://www.careersatsea.org/roles>

<http://www.careersatsea.org/roles/ashore.php>

A seafarer medical fitness certificate is required to work at sea. <https://www.gov.uk/seafarer-medical-certificates/overview>

SQA website

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