



## About Access 1 and 2 qualifications

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## Introduction

Access 1 and 2 qualifications are all about providing opportunities for candidates who require additional support for their learning.

Access 1 and 2 are routes to learning. They are also qualifications with opportunities for progression — this may be to another qualification at the same level, or to the next level.

This leaflet will give you some information about the range of opportunities that are available to learners doing Access 1 and 2 qualifications.

### National Units and Clusters

There are National Units at Access 1 and Access 2 and National Clusters at Access 2. They are usually done at school or at college. They can be done from third year onwards in schools.

Units normally take about 40 hours to complete, and there are three Units in a National Cluster. (At other levels, such as Higher, there are National Courses. A Cluster is similar to a National Course except that it does not have an exam.)

There are 22 Clusters at Access 2. There are also approximately 145 Units at Access 2, and 100 Units at Access 1, which means that there are many subjects to keep learners interested.

### The different kinds of Unit

#### Access 1 Supported Units

Access 1 Supported Units in Healthy Basic Cooking are for candidates who might always need a level of adult support. Candidates learn through enriched practical experience, using a sensory approach to learning. There's no need for skills such as planning, reviewing and evaluating (these skills are required in other qualifications).

## The different kinds of Unit (continued)

### Access 1 Independent Units

Access 1 Independent Units are for candidates who are using basic skills in a supported learning environment. They are available in areas such as Communication, Computing, and Personal and Social Education.

Learners who have done an Access 1 Independent Unit can progress to other Access 1 Independent Units, or to Access 1 Derived Units. Some may also progress to an Access 2 Unit.

### Access 1 Derived Units

These Access 1 Units are based on Access 2 Units, which cover a wide range of subject areas. This allows learners to build up to an Access 2 Unit step by step.

### Access 2 Units

Access 2 Units, which cover a wide range of subject areas (eg Art and Design, Computing, Mathematics, and Home Economics), enable candidates to progress from Access 1 Units.

For some candidates the Access 2 Units could be a starting point. Candidates who have achieved an Access 2 Unit may progress to other Access 2 Units or to Access 3 Units. (Access 3 is the next level in the qualifications framework. It's the same level as Foundation level Standard Grade.)

### Group Awards

Group Awards are collections of Units with a similar theme or subject. At Access 2 there are Scottish Group Awards (SGAs) to enable candidates to progress by broadening their interests.

There is also a Skillstart Group Award at Access 2. This is designed to prepare a learner for the world of work. It's designed for school-leavers with additional support needs, or for adults who wish to return to basic education.



## Core Skills

Many Access 2 Units and Clusters also cover the Core Skills. These are the essential skills that help people as they progress through education, training, work, and their lives generally. The five Core Skills are:

COMMUNICATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

NUMERACY

PROBLEM SOLVING

WORKING WITH OTHERS

## More Information

For more information, contact SQA's Customer Contact Centre on: **0845 279 1000** or e-mail: **customer@sqa.org.uk**

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