



# Explaining Access 1 and 2 qualifications



## Introduction

This leaflet is for teachers, lecturers, classroom assistants, and carers of learners who are working at Access 1 and 2. It will tell you about the qualifications that are available for these learners.

Access 1 and 2 qualifications are all about providing opportunities for candidates who require additional support for their learning. Access 1 and 2 provide ways to set up pathways to learning, and to offer qualifications with opportunities for progression — this may be to another qualification at the same level, or to the next level.

### 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 three Units comprise a National Cluster. (A Cluster is similar to a National Course except that it does not involve sitting an external exam.)

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

### Access 1

#### Access 1 Supported Units

The Access 1 Supported Units in Healthy Basic Cooking are designed principally to ensure that candidates who might always need a level of adult support can be included in the national system of qualifications. These Units recognise the importance of offering candidates an enriched practical experience which incorporates a sensory approach to learning, and does not necessarily include the need for higher order cognitive skills such as planning, reviewing, and evaluating to achieve the Unit Outcomes.

### **Access 1 Independent Units**

The Access 1 Independent Units are designed principally for candidates who are developing basic skills in a supported learning environment. They are available in areas such as Communication, Computing, and Personal and Social Education. Candidates are not required to have completed any other Units prior to undertaking these.

The Access 1 Independent Units can provide progression from Curriculum Descriptors\* or the Access 1 Supported Units for some candidates; or they can be delivered in an integrated programme comprising a mixture of Unit and Curriculum Descriptors\* according to the needs of the candidate.

On completion of an Access 1 Independent Unit, candidates can progress to other Access 1 Independent Units, or to Access 1 Derived Units. Some might also progress to an Access 2 Unit.

\*Curriculum Descriptors are curricular programmes that are not certificated by SQA. They are available from Learning and Teaching Scotland.

### **Access 1 Derived Units**

These Access 1 Units are based on Outcomes of Access 2 Units, which cover a wide range of subject areas. This allows candidates to build up to an Access 2 Unit in a step-by-step approach as they achieve the Outcomes. Access 1 Units derived from Access 2 Outcomes may be a starting point for some candidates, or they could provide progression from the Access 1 Independent Units.

### **Access 2 Units**

Access 2 Units cover a wide range of subject areas and may enable candidates to progress from Access 1 Units, although 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 Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework — Foundation level Standard Grades are also at this level.



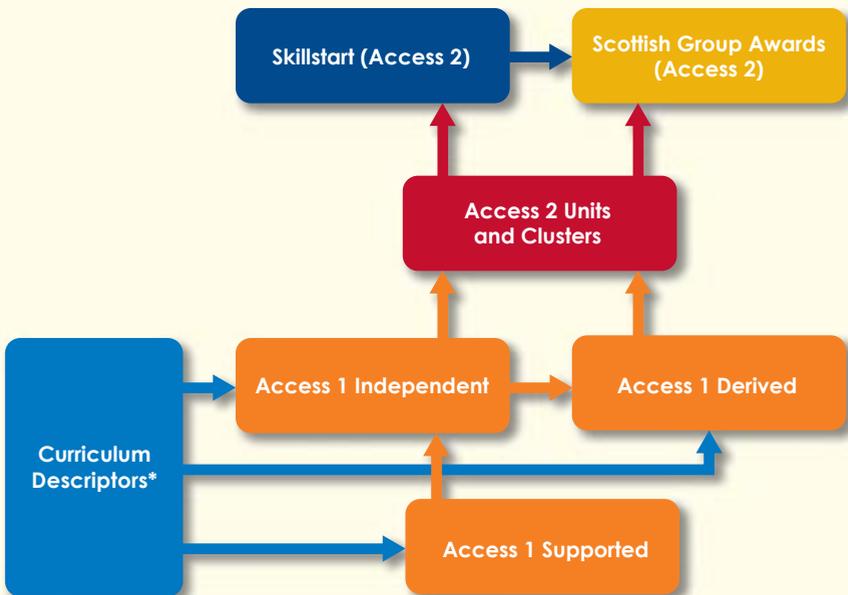
## Group Awards

At Access 2 there are single, double and triple Scottish Group Awards (SGAs) to enable candidates to progress to an SGA at the same level (in the case of the single and double SGAs) or to an SGA at Access 3.

There is also a Skillstart Group Award\* at Access 2. This is a pre-vocational qualification for school leavers with additional support needs, or for those who wish to return to basic education and/or pre-vocational training.

## Overview

Access 1 and 2 qualifications:





## Core Skills

Core Skills are the essential skills that help people as they progress through education, training, work, and their lives generally.

Core Skills have been embedded in some Access 2 Units and Clusters, which means that they will be a normal part of teaching, learning and assessment. Candidates will have their level of Core Skills recognised automatically as they complete some Access 2 Units and Clusters, so they are not required to sit additional assessments for these Core Skills.

There are also stand-alone Core Skills Units available at Access 2 in Communication, Information Technology, Numeracy, Problem Solving, and Working with Others.

## The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) enables candidates, employers and the general public to understand the range of Scottish qualifications, and it makes the relationships between levels clearer. Access 1 and 2 are the first and second levels of the SCQF respectively.

SCQF level	Schools	Schools and Colleges	Colleges and Universities	Workplace
12			Doctorate	
11			Masters Degree	SVQ 5
10			Honours Degree	
9			Ordinary Degree	
8			HND/Diploma of Higher Education	SVQ 4
7		Advanced Higher	HNC/Cert of Higher Education	
6		Higher		SVQ 3
5	Standard Grade — Credit	Intermediate 2		SVQ 2
4	Standard Grade — General	Intermediate 1		SVQ 1
3	Standard Grade — Foundation	Access 3		
2		Access 2		
1		Access 1		

### More information

For more information contact:

Morna Cartoon on **0141-242 2428** or e-mail:

**[morna.cartoon@sqa.org.uk](mailto:morna.cartoon@sqa.org.uk)**

or

Linda Murray on **0141-242 2187** or e-mail:

**[linda.murray@sqa.org.uk](mailto:linda.murray@sqa.org.uk)**

or

Customer Contact Centre on: **0845 279 1000** or

e-mail: **[customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk)**

Many Access 1 and 2 materials are published on  
SQA's website: **[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)**

and the LTS website: **[www.LTScotland.org.uk/NQ](http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/NQ)**

SCOTTISH  
QUALIFICATIONS  
AUTHORITY



Hanover House  
24 Douglas Street  
Glasgow  
G2 7NQ

Ironmills Road  
Dalkeith  
Midlothian  
EH22 1LE

Customer Contact Centre  
tel: 0845 279 1000  
fax: 0141-242 2244  
e-mail: [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk)

website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

BD2468

November 2004