

Qualifications for All

Equality of Access to SQA Qualifications



About SQA

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is the national body in Scotland for the development, accreditation, assessment and certification of qualifications other than degrees.

Qualifications

We at SQA are working hard to make sure that candidates' experience of taking our qualifications meets their aspirations and needs, and respects their rights under legislation such as the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act. Central to our work is the belief that each candidate is entitled to be treated fairly and with respect.

You will find information about our qualifications on our website: www.sqa.org.uk

Equality of Access to qualifications

This leaflet summarises our revised 'Equality of Access' policy which says —

In SQA, we seek to ensure that our qualifications are free from real or perceived barriers to learning and that they offer candidates an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential regardless of factors such as disability, age, sex, social background, sexual orientation, religion and race.

In practice, this means that we will take every possible step to ensure that we develop —

- ◆ Worthwhile qualifications, based on national standards. These must be accessible to candidates who have the potential to achieve them.
- ◆ Valid, reliable and credible assessments, and effective quality assurance processes which are sensitive to the needs of individual candidates. These must not compromise our overall aims of fairness and consistency.



What we are doing

Our priorities include —

- ◆ Working in partnership with stakeholders and SQA centres (such as universities, colleges, schools, independent schools, employers and private training providers) to ensure that all candidates enjoy equality of access to our qualifications.
- ◆ Doing more than simply complying with our duties under legislation in areas such as discrimination and support for learning.
- ◆ Developing qualifications which conform to accessibility and quality criteria.
- ◆ Ensuring that standards and assessments for SQA qualifications are clearly written and fit for purpose, and are not discriminatory.
- ◆ Making access to assessment as open as possible by allowing reasonable adjustments to our published assessment arrangements (in response to individual support needs), so long as they are consistent with national standards.
- ◆ Ensuring that our website and publications are accessible to users, and providing alternative formats as required.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this policy with us, please contact:

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