

SCQF Summary Information

Since 2001, mainstream Scottish qualifications have been brought into a single unifying framework known as the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). In this framework, qualifications are described in terms of their level and their credit value as defined by a number of SCQF points. These qualifications provide the foundations of a learning and credit transfer framework that is being implemented and embedded throughout Scotland's education and training provision.

In December 2004, SQA introduced software changes to the certification process, which means SCQF Summary Information is now included in the certification package of the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC).

The SQC now reports the SCQF level and the number of SCQF credit points achieved where applicable. This information is presented in summary format and is located on the 'Additional Information' page of the certificate. This will show at a glance how many SCQF credit points candidates have built up, and at what level. It reads as follows:

| | | |
|----|-----|-------------------|
| eg | 240 | points at level 8 |
| | 48 | points at level 6 |
| | 24 | points at level 5 |

What are SCQF Credit Points?

SCQF credit points are used to quantify the outcomes of learning and give them a value or currency. These general SCQF credit points are allocated to outcomes of learning that are subject to valid, reliable methods of assessment.

The number of SCQF credit points is worked out on the basis of the amount of time that an 'average' learner at a specified level might expect to take to achieve the outcomes. In common with other credit systems, the SCQF works on the basis that one credit point represents the outcomes of learning achieved through a **notional** 10 hours of learning time. However, this is merely a **guide** and no points are added or taken away if more or less time is taken to achieve the outcomes. No points are 'earned' by a learner if the outcomes of learning are not achieved.

Most mainstream qualifications in Scotland have been developed on a credit basis with design rules related to the amount and level of credit required. For example, the achievement of a Higher National Certificate requires the accumulation of 96 SCQF credit points, at least 48 of which must be at level 7, while an SQA course at Higher requires the accumulation of 24 SCQF credit points at level 6.

General SCQF credit points can be used to assist learners to transfer between programmes. The awarding bodies — SQA and individual universities — decide the extent to which this kind of transfer can take place. They determine how much of the credit already achieved is relevant to the new programme and the specific number of credits that can be transferred.

Further information regarding the SCQF can be obtained from the SCQF section of SQA's website, or from SCQF's website (www.scqf.org.uk).