

NQ
NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS



SCOTTISH
QUALIFICATIONS
AUTHORITY



Skills for Work Courses

A new opportunity

From August 2005, we are piloting a new range of Skills for Work courses. They are mainly for pupils in third and fourth year of secondary school, and they focus on the world of work.

The new qualifications encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work. They will help them to develop knowledge and skills that will be important for employment — and for life more generally.

The new qualifications will offer young people a variety of practical experiences that are linked to particular careers.

Young people taking one of these new Skills for Work Courses will normally go to a local college for some of their time, even though they are still officially a pupil at school. This will mean learning in a different environment, and meeting new people and facing new challenges.

We hope that, for some young people, an early taste of college and the chance to work on practical skills that are directly relevant to real jobs, will provide real benefits. It should provide another good opportunity to develop their self-confidence. It also should provide a very positive learning experience in a real life situation.

Real benefits

Skills for Work Courses will help young people to acquire knowledge and develop skills that will be useful in work and in life more generally. For example:

- an understanding of the workplace, including their own responsibilities (eg time-keeping, appearance, customer care)
- how to evaluate their own progress, strengths and weaknesses
- how to analyse and solve problems
- how to be adaptable and have a positive attitude to change

Achieving the Course

The young person's achievement will be assessed throughout the Course.

They will achieve the Course by successfully completing the Units that make up the Course. There is no exam, and these Courses are not graded — instead the young person will need to complete the necessary Unit assessments to achieve a Course award. This will involve a range of different tasks, including short tests and keeping personal records.

The Course will appear on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate in the same way as any other National Course.

Courses that will be piloted in 2005/2006:

- Intermediate 1 Construction Craft Skills
- Intermediate 1 Early Education and Childcare
- Intermediate 2 Early Education and Childcare
- Intermediate 2 Financial Services
- Intermediate 1 Sport and Recreation

More of these new Courses, in different vocational areas, will be piloted in 2006 – 07.

More information

Schools and colleges participating in the pilot have more detailed information on these new Courses. Full details are also available on our website:

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork.

The logo for Skills for Work Courses features a stylized white figure of a person with arms raised, set against a blue background. The text 'Skills for Work' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font above the word 'Courses', which is also in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a gradient of blue and white, with some faint text like 'Progression' and 'Skills' visible in the background.



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

website: www.sqa.org.uk