

Ready Reckoner: Scottish and Polish Qualifications

How to use the Ready Reckoner

You will find the name of the Polish qualification of interest to you in **blue** in **Column 2** below the English translation.

Above the English name is a code. Information in column 3 corresponding to the same qualification will begin with the same code, rather than the Polish name.

Aligned with the name in the columns to the left and right, you will find:

- a) Information about the kind of school where this qualification is taken, including general information about the curriculum in **Column 1**.
- b) The most similar Scottish qualification or suite of qualifications in **Column 3**.

Levels of Scottish qualifications are expressed in terms of the levels we use in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Below the ready reckoner you will find a diagram showing you where SQA qualifications sit within the SCQF. Further information on the SCQF can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/scqf

NB: Please note that these comparisons are NOT direct equivalences They are based on the official comparability statement from NARIC, the National Academic Recognition and Information Centre – www.naric.org.uk . The information on the Polish education system and qualifications has been sent to NARIC Poland and is pending confirmation.

Intro: The different kinds of school and main non-school provision and the qualifications they offer are described in the table below. All vocational education in Poland is based on the occupations listed in the government's "Classification of Occupations for Vocational Schooling" which is updated regularly to take account of changes in the labour market. Although the 3 year general secondary school does not provide vocational education, it is included in the table as it now attracts a large proportion of lower secondary leavers – 45% in 2003 – and is a route into post secondary vocational education as well as HE.

Key for Ready Reckoner:

Red – name of school/college/institution in Polish

Blue – name of qualification in Polish

Green – name of examination in Polish

SQA Qualifications:

SG – Standard Grade

AH – Advanced Higher

SGA – Scottish Group Award

HND – Higher National Diploma

H -Higher

NC – National Certificate

HNC – Higher National Certificate

Type of school/learning centre	Qualifications awarded	Comparable Scottish qualifications
<p>A: <i>Liceum Ogólnokształcące</i></p> <p><u>3/4 year full time general secondary</u> (for pupils aged approx. 16 - 19)</p> <p>General education leading to maturity certificate required for entry to higher education.</p> <p>Pupils who successfully complete the course but do not take the final exam receive a certificate of completion which gives entry to post secondary school *and access to vocational qualifications but does not allow direct access to HE.</p> <p><i>*see section E below</i></p>	<p>(A1) Maturity certificate Świadectwo Dojrzałości Liceum Ogólnokształcącego</p> <p>This consists of an oral and written examination. Students are able to chose subjects based on their desired university choices, but they must include Polish and three to five other subjects.</p> <p>(A2) Certificate of completion Świadectwo ukończenia Liceum Ogólnokształcącego</p> <p>As with all Certificates of Completion, the student has to have completed the year with no fail marks.</p>	<p>(A1) This group award is akin to a good group of Highers (SCQF level 6) with some additional subjects at SCQF level 5 (credit SG) and others at SCQF level 7 (Advanced Higher).</p> <p>(A2) This means that students have studied some subjects to SCQF level 5 (credit level SG) and some to SCQF level 6 (Highers) Between Standard Grades and Higher</p>
<p>B: <i>Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa</i></p> <p><u>2 -3 year basic vocational school</u> (for pupils aged approx. 16 to 19)</p> <p>General and vocational education leading to skilled worker qualification e.g. hairdresser, baker, mechanic.</p> <p>The first year consists of around 30% theoretical and practical training in vocational subjects, growing to around 70% in the final year. 1 or 2 vocational placements each of 4 weeks</p> <p>There are nationally developed core curricula for broad-profile occupations at skilled worker's (apprentice's) level.</p>	<p>(B1) Old skilled worker qualification Świadectwo ukończenia Szkoły Zasadniczej</p> <p>Until 2001 the final certificate of basic vocational school, i.e. certificate of completion of basic vocational school was only awarded to those who passed the compulsory vocational exam (<i>egzamin z nauki zawodu</i>). The exam included written and practical assessment relevant to their chosen profession. The certificate was also a proof of professional qualifications in a given occupation and it gave access to labour market.</p>	<p>(B1) This is a group award at SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2, credit SG) but with a broad vocational focus. The nearest Scottish equivalent would be a Scottish Group Award/National Certificate at SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2) in a similar vocational area, e.g. hairdressing.</p>

<p>Since 2001 the vocational exam is no longer compulsory - course completers receive completion certificate</p>	<p>(B2) New skilled worker qualification Dyplom uzyskania tytułu zawodowego * This is proof of their professional qualifications.*</p> <p>(B3) New Certificate of Completion Świadectwo ukończenia zasadniczej Szkoły Zawodowej</p>	<p>(B2) New qualification seems likely to be at the same level as its predecessor – see above.</p> <p>(B3) In terms of level and content, similar to B1 above. Proof that they have completed basic vocational school with no fail marks at the end of the year, but have not taken any professional exams.</p>
<p>C: <i>Liceum Profilowane</i> <u>3 year full time specialised secondary</u> (for pupils aged approx. 16 to 19)</p> <p>New type of school (attracted 15% of gymnasium leavers in 2003) offering general education leading to maturity certificate and higher education as well as general vocational education which can be continued in post secondary school to obtain skilled worker or technician qualification according to the following 15 vocational profiles: <i>social issues, economy and administration, services and management issues, information management, mechanical manufacturing technologies, mechatronics, electro-technology, electronics, transport and forwarding, forestry and technology, chemical environmental testing, fashion design, agriculture and food processing, environmental engineering, metal handicrafts.</i></p> <p>Maturity exam not compulsory. Course completers receive completion certificate which gives entry to post secondary school and access to vocational qualifications but not to HE.</p>	<p>(C1) Maturity certificate Świadectwo dojrzałości Liceum Profilowanego (see also A1 above)</p> <p>(C2) Certificate of completion Świadectwo ukończenia Liceum Profilowanego</p>	<p>(C1) The Maturity Certificate is at pre-university level with all pupils covering general subjects to a level similar to SCQF 5 and then taking 3 subjects, either general or vocational to levels around SCQF 6/7. A maturity certificate from a specialised secondary would include 3 vocational subjects at the higher level.</p> <p>(C2) Certificate of completion - same studies as above but no external assessment. Similar to an NC at SCQF level 6 in specific vocational area.</p>

D: *Technikum*

4 year Secondary Technical School

(for pupils aged approx. 16 to 20)

General and vocational education leading to maturity certificate and **technician** level qualifications.

36% of class time is spent on vocational subjects with 10% to 38% of this time in practical training, including 1 or 2 4-week work placements.

There are nationally developed core curricula for all occupations with modular curricula being introduced.

(D1)

Maturity certificate *Świadectwo dojrzałości Technikum* in the following vocational areas:

Agriculture and food products

Chemical branch

Economics and administration

Electrical equipment and power

Electronics

Environmental formation

Forestry and wood technology

Machinery

Service and business activities

Social sector and social work

Textiles

Transport

Allows direct access to Higher Education.

(D2)

Old Technician Qualification *Świadectwo ukończenia Technikum/Liceum Technicznego*

This is a certificate of completion – holder has completed secondary education and generally oriented vocational education. No direct access to HE.

(D3)

New Technician Qualification *Dyplom uzyskania tytułu zawodowego **

(D4)

New certificate of completion *Świadectwo ukończenia Technikum*

(D1)

This is a group award covering general and vocational subjects at entry level for university. It is like a mixture of some Scottish Highers (SCQF level 6) and vocational units from either an NC (SCQF level 6 or an HNC (SCQF level 7). See also A1 above.

(D2)

In terms of level and content, similar to D1 above. Proof that they have completed secondary technical school with no fail marks at the end of the year, but have not taken the maturity exam.

(D3)

Likely to be similar to D1 above.

(D4)

Likely to be similar to D2 above.

<p>E: <i>Szkoly Policealne</i> and <i>Szkoly Pomaturaine</i></p> <p>Post Secondary Vocational Schools (for pupils aged approx. 19 to 21+)</p> <p><i>Szkoly Policealne</i> Vocational education leading to skilled worker and technician qualifications for leavers from general and specialised secondary schools with completion certificates.</p> <p><i>Szkoly Pomaturaine</i> For students who already have the maturity examination. Before the reforms these post secondary schools offered vocational courses for which the maturity certificate was an entrance requirement. These schools trained students in vocational / professional specialisations and prepare them for specific occupations such as nurses, midwives and librarians. They included 15-week internships and school practice in the mandatory curriculum. After the reform, training for these professions passed to the HE sector but some such schools still remain, particularly for artistic disciplines.</p> <p>Successor students likely to attend new higher vocational schools in the HE sector from which they will graduate as licencjat or inzynier</p>	<p>(E1) Dyplom uzyskania tytułu zawodowego</p> <p>(E2) The Dyplom in a professional field from a Szkoly Pomaturaine</p> <p>(E3) licencjat or inzynier These titles are awarded to those who complete higher professional education courses that last from three to four years depending on the field of study. The studies at this level are organised by both university-type higher education institutions and the institutions of higher professional education. In order to graduate and be awarded one of these titles students must complete a thesis or diploma project.</p>	<p>(E1) This vocational group award has components at SCQF level 6 and at SCQF level 7 (HNC). However it is strictly vocational in nature.</p> <p>(E2) Similar to a Higher National Certificate (SCQF level 7) in a parallel vocational area.</p> <p>(E3) Similar to HND (SCQF level 8) in specific vocational area.</p>
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<p>Apprenticeships organised by the Polish Association of Crafts</p> <p>These last between 2 and 3 years depending on the occupation and include off the job theoretical education. Typical vocational areas are: construction, production of construction materials, woodworking and carpentry, textiles, metalworking, electrical installation, electronics and foodstuffs .Another important sector is artistic or decorative work.</p> <p>Those who meet additional training requirements, gain appropriate working experience and pass master’s examination earn title master Graduates of secondary technical schools can also take the masters examination.</p>	<p>(E4) apprenticeship certificate Świadectwo czeladnicze (holders gain title of <i>czeladnik</i>)</p> <p>(E4) master’s diploma Dyplom mistrzowski (holders gain the title <i>mistrz</i>)</p> <p>Apprenticeship and mastercraftsman examinations are conducted in two parts: theoretical and practical. Practical part consists of an unaided performance by the examinee of the examination tasks testing his/her practical abilities. Theoretical part is divided into two parts: oral and written. The examinations are carried out by the Examination Commissions of the Craft Chambers (<i>Izby Rzemieślnicze</i>).</p>	<p><i>Note:</i></p> <p><i>The Polish Association of Crafts is similar in its function to the SSDA.</i></p> <p><i>In order to gain these qualifications, candidates will take tests similar to skills tests.</i></p>
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Note on grading of qualifications

The old grading system which operated across the different types of qualifications had 6 points and remained in place until 2005.
Old grading system

6	celujący	(excellent)
5	bardzo dobry	(very good)
4	dobry	(good)
3	dostateczny	(satisfactory/pass)
2	mierny	(mediocre)
1	niedostateczny	(unsatisfactory)

