

New qualifications — new opportunities shaping your workforce



Our new **National 1 to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher** qualifications recognise that there are different types of learners. They reward a wide range of achievement and are designed to help young people develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to succeed.

What has changed?

The new qualifications have been designed to support Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), the national curriculum in Scotland for young people aged three to 18. The new qualifications have more of a focus on developing skills, as well as knowledge and understanding. Some new courses have also been introduced, such as Lifeskills Mathematics, to support young people towards employment or further study, and to reflect the increasing demand for a skilled and experienced young workforce.

You can look forward to recruiting young people who have gained knowledge, skills and experience throughout their learning.

What should I look for on CVs?

The table shows how the new qualifications compare to the previous National Qualifications you may already be familiar with.

SCQF level	Previous National Qualifications	Grades		New National Qualifications	Grades
7	Advanced Higher	A to D	▶	Advanced Higher	A to D
6	Higher	A to D	▶	Higher	A to D
5	Intermediate 2	A to D	▶	National 5	A to D
	Standard Grade (Credit level)	1 or 2			
4	Intermediate 1	A to D	▶	National 4	Not graded
	Standard Grade (General level)	3 or 4			
3	Standard Grade (Foundation level)	5 or 6	▶	National 3	Not graded
	Access 3	Not graded			
2	Access 2	Not graded	▶	National 2	Not graded
1	Access 1	Not graded	▶	National 1	Not graded

See how the new qualifications compare to other SQA qualifications at www.sqa.org.uk/readyreckoner

A chart comparing old and new qualifications from the 1960s to the present day is available from www.scqf.org.uk, where you can also keep up to date with Scottish qualifications and learning programmes.

Will young people be ready for the workplace?

Yes. Young people will develop **practical skills** like data collection, literacy, numeracy and teamworking; **Core Skills** like Communication, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Problem Solving; and **Skills for Learning, Life and Work** (SfLLW) such as Literacy and Employability, enterprise and citizenship. The new qualifications focus on making sure that young people can transfer their skills, knowledge and understanding to different situations.

Find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/coreskills and www.sqa.org.uk/sfllw

Young people can also study for a number of Awards which support wider achievement, such as Personal Development and Employability. You can see the full range of our Awards at www.sqa.org.uk/awards

Working with employers

Our Curriculum for Excellence Support Team is continuing to keep employers up to date on the changes to National Qualifications. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeteam to find out more.

For information on how we can work alongside your business, visit www.sqa.org.uk/workwithus



A guide for **employers** to the new **National Qualifications**



More information

For more information and to download a copy of this leaflet, visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeforemployers

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be done  SQA

www.sqa.org.uk/cfeforemployers

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