

# Introducing **SQA**

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## E-assessment systems



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# E-assessment **from SQA**



SQA e-assessment systems are designed to enhance the delivery and learning experience for learners and provide more choice in assessment approaches to tutors and teachers. This brochure gives an overview of the range of e-assessment systems and assessments on offer.

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SQA's e-assessment systems are designed to:

- Enhance the assessment delivery and learning experience for learners
- Increase choice in assessment approaches for teachers, lecturers and centres
- Ensure quality standards are maintained

This brochure gives an overview of the range of e-assessment systems and assessments on offer from SQA and the benefits they bring.

E-assessment will continue to play an increasingly important role in supporting our qualifications, with significant benefits for centres and for learners.

It offers:

- Flexible delivery supporting assessment-when-ready
- Improved interaction and engagement for learners
- Reduced paper-based assessment administration
- Results and feedback for learners that can be instant
- Improved standardisation and guaranteed quality assurance

SQA e-assessments are reliable, robust and straightforward for our centres to administer. They are supported by SQA's sector-leading assessment and quality assurance procedures.

The development and management of these systems is led by our dedicated e-Assessment and Learning team and we have developed an online course E-assessment for Schools and Colleges in SQA Academy at [www.sqaacademy.org.uk](http://www.sqaacademy.org.uk), our online training and development portal, to support centres in making the most of e-assessment in their learning delivery.

### European Social Fund Support

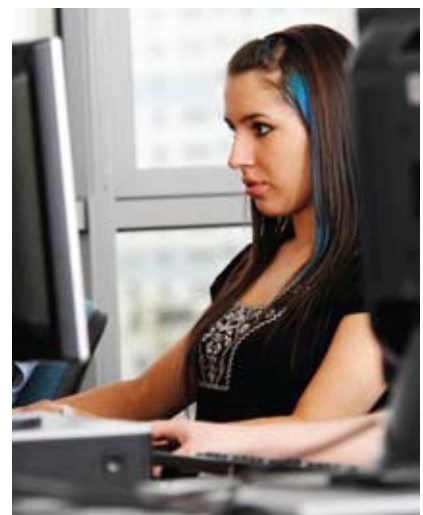
Over recent years, SQA has been leading a number of European Social Fund (ESF) projects funded through Priority 3 (Lifelong Learning) and the Equal Community Initiative. These projects have enabled the production and release of new qualifications and support materials across a range of curriculum areas that are improving access to lifelong learning for Scotland's learners.

The European Social Fund (ESF) aims to address social

inequalities within and across regions by improving the general performance of the labour market, in particular in relation to marginalised groups. SQA believes that using these e-resources in the delivery of qualifications and assessments widens engagement and reduces barriers.

SQA will continue to quality assure and release innovative e-assessment content developed through the TranSETT and Skills for Scotland (S4S) projects.

A complete list of all the e-assessment and learning content developed through these projects is available at: [www.sqa.org.uk/europe](http://www.sqa.org.uk/europe)



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# SQA SOLAR



SQA SOLAR is our online assessment tool that provides summative and formative e-assessments.

## Summative e-assessments

All summative e-assessments are based on banks of quality-assured questions, so centres can trust that our rigorous assessment standards are maintained. They are available for a wide range of our qualifications from SCQF level 3 to level 8.

SQA SOLAR provides real benefits for learners and centres including:

- Pre-verified e-assessments so centres know that quality is assured and results are guaranteed
- Most e-assessments are automatically marked, saving centre staff time
- Inbuilt security features which lock down access to other applications and support our invigilation requirements
- Learners receive immediate results and feedback

More information about SQA SOLAR and a complete list of all available summative assessments are available at [www.sqasolar.org.uk](http://www.sqasolar.org.uk)

## Formative e-assessments

We have developed a range of formative e-assessments which are freely available for learners to use to support their learning and study. These e-assessments provide the same high quality interaction as the summative e-assessments but with the added benefit of context specific feedback.

The majority of the e-assessments are dynamically generated from a bank of pre-verified questions every time a learner attempts an assessment, guaranteeing a consistent and robust assessment for every learner.

There are formative e-assessments available to support many subjects at different levels.

Learners can access the formative e-assessments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.sqasolar.org.uk/openassess](http://www.sqasolar.org.uk/openassess)

## How do I get access to SQA SOLAR summative e-assessments?

Tutors and teachers must be registered to use SQA SOLAR. A pro forma to request a login and password is available on the SQA SOLAR site.

Prior to seeking access we recommend that you review our demonstration and tutorials, available in the training section at [www.sqasolar.org.uk/training](http://www.sqasolar.org.uk/training)

Many of our approved centres already have a member of staff appointed as an SQA SOLAR administrator who can also provide help and advice – a full list of contacts is available in the training section of the website.

Our dedicated E-assessment and Learning team can also provide further support.

## What do I need to use SOLAR e-assessments?

You will need a computer with internet access and Flash Player 10.1 (min) installed. The resolution of your monitor must be set to at least 1024 x 768 to display the assessments correctly.

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# SQA

## DeskSpace



SQA DeskSpace is our e-portfolio available to support all learners undertaking Skills for Work courses.



SQA DeskSpace provides a range of materials to support teachers delivering Skills for Work courses, including assessor and learner checklists and folio templates.

The system provides real benefits to learners and centres including:

- A safe and secure environment to record the evidence for course assessments, even if the learner is studying at more than one centre
- Easy and flexible access requiring only an internet connection
- A user-friendly interface and online templates to help learners structure their learning and work

- Learners can use a wide range of sources to generate evidence
- Teaching staff can use the system to share information with their learners and provide feedback on progress and assessments

A new mobile app enables even greater access and allows learners to use their mobile phone to upload evidence such as film footage and images directly to their portfolio.

More information about SQA DeskSpace is available at [www.sqadeskspace.org.uk](http://www.sqadeskspace.org.uk) and [www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork](http://www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork)

### How do I get access to SQA DeskSpace?

Prior to registration, tutors and teachers are required to complete training in the system.

Training is available through an online course on SQA Academy, our online training and development portal, which can be completed fully in a couple of hours. Alternatively we can arrange face to face training - visit [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment) and select SQA DeskSpace for more information.

Following completion of the training, tutors can register their learners for DeskSpace accounts.

Please email [esf@sqa.org.uk](mailto:esf@sqa.org.uk) for more information and to register for SQA Academy training.

Access SQA DeskSpace at [www.sqadeskspace.org.uk](http://www.sqadeskspace.org.uk)



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# SQA

## GamesSpace



SQA GamesSpace is an award-winning online games-based assessment platform that provides games-based assessments (NABs) for selected Skills for Work Courses.

Games have been developed for:

- Retailing Intermediate 2
- Health Sector Intermediate 1 and 2
- Energy Intermediate 2
- Uniformed and Emergency Services Intermediate 1

SQA GamesSpace allows learners to enter a simulated workplace and carry out an assessment in the 3-D environment. Through interactions with other characters and objects, learners perform tasks to demonstrate their competence.

SQA GamesSpace offers real benefits to learners and centres including:

- The results of a learner's performance are recorded for teaching staff to access and mark easily
- Increased engagement by using a medium that young people are familiar with
- Providing an alternative assessment experience more suited to some learners to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities.

More information about SQA GamesSpace is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment)

SQA GamesSpace won the ICT Education Partnership category at the Prestigious BETT Awards 2011

#### How do I get access to SQA GamesSpace?

Centres wishing to use GamesSpace will have to be registered with SQA to access the game(s). Please contact [esf@sqa.org.uk](mailto:esf@sqa.org.uk) with your subject and centre information to register.

Training on how to use SQA GamesSpace is built into the system - a short tutorial is available to familiarise you with the interface before proceeding to the test.



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# CLASS



CLASS (Collaborative Learning Assessed by Social Software) is a tool that uses a wiki and blog to capture learners' work and input to group projects.

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By recording their thoughts and activities in their personal or group blog, learners can demonstrate their understanding of the subject. All members of the group also contribute to the project by editing a group wiki, and work collaboratively to achieve the objectives of the project.

CLASS provides real benefits for learners and centres including:

- A safe and secure environment to capture learners' evidence of work and demonstrate their understanding

- Easy access for Assessors to monitor the progress of the project
- Ability to track the contributions made to the wiki by each member of the group, so Assessors can assign marks to learners fairly

More information about CLASS is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment)

#### How do I get access to CLASS?

If you would like to use CLASS in your centre, please contact **veronica.harris@sqa.org.uk** to discuss.



Contact **us now**

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