

Scottish Group Award Specifications

Scottish Group Award

Level:

Higher

Code:

G5BN 12

Summary of requirements

SGA at Higher

National Courses and Units required*

3 National Courses (12 credits) at Higher

plus

*8 credits at minimum of Intermediate 2 in **any** combination of units from:*
National Courses
National Units

Total 20 credits

Core skills required*

The above must include or cover:
5 core skills at minimum of Intermediate 2

*See Important Note on page 4.

Rules for credit contribution in specific and open sections

Important Note* Achievement above the minimum requirements

The specification shows the **minimum** requirements for this SGA. Where possible, centres may wish to encourage candidates to exceed this minimum. Candidates achieving above the minimum specification will have this achievement recorded on their Scottish Qualifications Certificate. For example the following can be achieved above the minimum requirement:

- Core Skills at levels above those specified
- more National Courses and Units at Higher instead of the credits at Intermediate 2
- National Course grades, eg grade A or B instead of grade C
- more than the required three National Courses, in which case each additional course completed counts as four credits in the open section of the specification

Hierarchies

- courses and units can be substituted by those with the same title at a higher level, eg French (Int 2) can be substituted by French (H) and Numeracy (Int 2) can be substituted by Numeracy (H) (See Section E)

Double counting

- courses and units with the same title at different levels cannot both contribute credits to the SGA, eg **either** Geography (Int 2) **or** Geography (H)
- courses at the same level in the same subject cannot both contribute credits to the SGA, eg **either** the National Course in English at Higher **or** SCE Higher English (See Section F)
- same course with different grades cannot both contribute credits to the SGA, eg **either** Higher Biology at grade A **or** Higher Biology at grade C
- same course or unit cannot contribute credit to both specific and open sections of an SGA

National Course awards at Grade D

National Course awards at Grade D can contribute to the SGA in the following ways:

- a grade D at Advanced Higher can contribute 4 credits to the specific section
- a grade D at Higher (or above) can contribute 4 credits to the open section.

Note - The former compensatory course awards (fallbacks) can also contribute to the SGA:

- a compensatory award for a Course taken at Advanced Higher (ie awarded at Higher) can contribute 4 credits to the specific section
- a compensatory award for a Course taken at Higher (ie awarded at Intermediate 2) can contribute 4 credits to the open section.

Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig

- Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig courses cannot both contribute credits to the SGA
- Candidates can choose **either** the Gaelic (Learners) or Gàidhlig course, not both

Specific section

A

SGA at Higher

This section specifies the mandatory number of courses and the mandatory core skills requirement for this group award.

Course requirement	Credits
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Three National Courses from:	
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Any National Courses at Higher

each 4

Total credits required: 12

** Core skills requirement

Communication at Intermediate 2

Numeracy at Intermediate 2

Information Technology at Intermediate 2

Problem Solving at Intermediate 2

Working with Others at Intermediate 2

** See Section D for core skills details.

Note: Candidates may substitute designated SCE Highers for National Courses at Higher in this section. (See Section F)

8 credits at minimum of Intermediate 2 are required to complete this SGA.

The 8 credits may be made up from any combination of the following qualifications. Each has a fixed credit value for the purposes of this SGA.

Qualifications	Credit
National Units at Intermediate 2 or above	each typically 1
National Courses at Intermediate 2 or above	each 4
Standard Grades at Credit Level contribute credits at <i>Intermediate 2</i> *	each 4
SCE Highers contribute credits at <i>Higher</i> *	each 4
Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) contribute credits at <i>Advanced Higher</i> *	each 4
Free-standing core skills units (if required to complete the core skills requirement)	each 1
Relevant SVQs at Level 2 contribute credits at <i>Intermediate 2</i> :	max 8
Relevant SVQs at Level 3 contribute credits at <i>Higher</i> :	max 8

*If achieved prior to 1994 please contact SQA Helpdesk ☎ 0141 242 2214.

Rules for credit contribution in specific and open sections

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Hierarchies

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Double counting

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Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig

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Note: Advice on making up programmes of credit from the open section follows in Section C.

Programme advice

C

Candidates having met the requirements of the specific section need to achieve up to 8 further credits at Intermediate 2. The general rules are defined in Section B.

A wide choice is available to achieve these credits. Centres should consider individual candidate needs, eg for further specialist work within their chosen area of the SGA or for broadening beyond the area covered within the specific section.

This particular SGA is made up of a combination of courses and/or units designed to meet a coherent overall purpose and has no mandatory requirements for particular subjects to be studied. However, like all SGAs, this group award should ensure that candidates have:

- undertaken a coherent programme
- achieved the knowledge and skills necessary to follow particular progression routes
- reached a level of core skills competence appropriate to the level of the group award

Candidates who have not achieved the core skills profile in other ways must select the required core skills units from the open section.

Please note the rules on hierarchical substitution and double-counting listed in Section B when finalising individual candidate SGA programmes.

Core skills

D

To achieve this SGA, all candidates **must achieve** the following core skills:

Core skill	Level
Communication	Intermediate 2
Numeracy	Intermediate 2
Information Technology	Intermediate 2
Problem Solving	Intermediate 2
Working with Others	Intermediate 2

Candidates can achieve core skills:

- through Standard Grades or other units which give automatic certification of core skills, eg a candidate who has completed English at Credit Level is given automatic certification of Communication at Intermediate 2
- by selecting units and courses which give automatic certification of core skills, eg the unit Work Experience (Int 2) gives automatic certification of Problem Solving at Intermediate 2
- by selecting dedicated core skills units in the open section of the SGA

One or more core skills in this SGA may be automatically certificated through courses and units in the specific section. Where this is the case, the corresponding core skill unit in the open section cannot be counted towards the SGA.

Candidates' current level of achievement in core skills is shown on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate in the form of a profile. This shows achievement against each of the core skills *components*. Where a core skill has more than one component, the candidate needs to achieve each component at the level specified for the SGA. For example, if an SGA requires Communication at Intermediate 2, a candidate whose profile shows Written Communication at Intermediate 2 and Oral Communication at Intermediate 1 would not meet the requirement and would have to improve in Oral Communication.

Details of all courses which give automatic certification of core skills is published in the *Catalogue of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 2001/2002).

Hierarchical sequences

E

The SQA numbering system for qualifications consists of a 4 + 2 reference code.

The qualifications in a hierarchical sequence have the same title and are available at more than one level. They are identified by their reference code having the same first four digits, eg, D321 in the example below. The last two digits are unique to each level of qualification, eg 11 equates to Intermediate 2, 12 equates to Higher.

Units

The following is an example of a hierarchical sequence of units:

D321 10	Mathematics 1 (Int 1)
D321 11	Mathematics 1 (Int 2)
D321 12	Mathematics 1 (H)
D321 13	Mathematics 1 (AH)

Where units which are part of hierarchical sequences are specified, candidates who achieve a unit at a higher level than the one specified can use the upper level unit to count as credit towards the group award. For example, Mathematics 1 (H) can be counted instead of Mathematics 1 (Int 2).

Candidates can only use one of these units to count as credit towards the group award.

In the case of unrevised National Certificate Modules, ie units which retain their original number, there are hierarchies where the title is the same and the number is different. Details of these exceptions will be published in a separate document. The pattern for these hierarchies is the same as that previously established for GSVQs.

There are also some hierarchies where the titles and numbers of the units at different levels are different. In this specification, if there are two units at different levels with heavily overlapping content, only one of these units should be used to count as credit towards the group award. Details of these exceptions will be published in a separate document.

Courses

The following is an example of a hierarchical sequence of courses:

C115 10	English (Int 1)
C115 11	English (Int 2)
C115 12	English (H)
C115 13	English (AH)

In the SGA specification, where courses which belong to hierarchical sequences are specified, candidates who achieve a course at a higher level than the one specified can use the upper level course to count as credit towards the group award. For example, English (H) can be counted instead of English (Int 2).

Candidates can only use one of these courses to count as credit towards the group award - a maximum of 4 credits.

SCE Highers

F

Designated SCE Highers can contribute 4 credits each to the SGA in place of National Courses in the *specific section*.

The designated SCE Highers and their corresponding National Courses, either of which can contribute to this SGA, are as follows:

SCE Higher Grade*

National Course

Accounting and Finance	Accounting (H)
Art and Design	Art and Design (H)
Biology	Biology (H)
Chemistry	Chemistry (H)
Classical Greek	Classical Greek (H)
Classical Studies	Classical Studies (H)
Craft and Design	Craft and Design (H)
Computing Studies	Computing (H)
Drama	Drama (H)
Economics	Economics (H)
English	English (H)
Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig (H)
Geography	Geography (H)
Geology	Geology (H)
Graphic Communication	Graphic Communication (H)
History	History (H)
Home Economics	Home Economics – Health and Food Technology (H)
Human Biology	Human Biology (H)
Latin	Latin (H)
Management and Information Studies	Business Management (H)
Mathematics	Mathematics (H)
<i>Modern Languages</i>	
French	French (H)
Gaelic (Learners)	Gaelic (Learners) (H)
German	German (H)
Italian	Italian (H)
Russian	Russian (H)
Spanish	Spanish (H)
Modern Studies	Modern Studies (H)
Music	Music (H)
Physics	Physics (H)
Physical Education	Physical Education (H)
Religious Studies	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (H)
Technological Studies	Technological Studies (H)

*SCE Highers do not give automatic certification of core skills. Further information will be published about this in due course.

Note: Any SCE Higher can contribute 4 credits to the *open section*.

SVQs

G

Relevant Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) can each contribute up to eight credits to the open section of the SGA.

SVQs at Level 3 contribute credits at Higher.

SVQs at Level 2 contribute credits at Intermediate 2.

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