

Curriculum for Excellence: the structure and design of new National Qualifications in Scotland

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OECD Recommendations

- ◆ Better connection between the various stages of the curriculum from 3 to 18
- ◆ Achievement of a better balance between 'academic' and 'vocational' subjects
- ◆ Need to better equip young people with the skills they will need in tomorrow's workforce
- ◆ Need to ensure that assessment and certification support learning
- ◆ More choices to meet the needs of individual young people



Current Qualifications

7	Advanced Higher
6	Higher
5	SG Credit/Int2
4	SG General/Int1
3	Access 3/SG Foundation
2	Access 2
1	Access 1

Replaced
by

New Qualifications

Advanced Higher (Revised)
Higher (Revised)
National 5
National 4
Access 3 (Revised)
Access 2 (Revised)
Access 1 (Revised)

Developing the new Courses

Dedicated development teams:

- ◆ Curriculum Area Review Groups

Externally nominated, include representatives from Education Scotland, Scottish Executive, Scotland's Colleges, Universities Scotland, Parents, Prison Service, Sector Skills Council etc.

- ◆ Qualification Design Teams

42 teams for individual subjects, nominated subject experts from schools, Local Authorities, colleges, universities and employers.

- ◆ Subject Working Groups

Practitioners-Just completed Course and Unit Support Notes now working on Assessment Support.



Access 3

- ◆ Units pass/fail within centres, quality assured by SQA
- ◆ Replaces current Access 3 and S Grade Foundation Courses
- ◆ Access 3 Courses will be benchmarked against the standards of current Access 3 and SG Foundation Courses
- ◆ More skills based

Access 3 will not be graded



National 4

- ◆ Follows on from Outcomes and Experiences in the Broad General Education
- ◆ Designed to provide progression between levels
- ◆ Practitioners will mark all Units within the National 4 Course pass or fail - Quality Assured by SQA
- ◆ Courses at National 4 - 160 notional hours
- ◆ More skills based
- ◆ Assessment appropriate to subject and level



National 4 Courses will not be graded.

National 5

- ◆ Courses at 5 and above are Unit based - Units assessed pass/fail within centres – as at present
- ◆ Designed to provide progression between levels
- ◆ Courses at National 5 and above - 160 notional hours
- ◆ Assessment appropriate to subject and level
- ◆ More skills based



National 5 Graded A-D

Adding Value

- ◆ For National 4, there is an Added Value Unit. This will require the learner to demonstrate breadth, challenge and/or application of skills.
- ◆ National 4 Courses are **internally assessed** and **externally verified**.
- ◆ National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, will include an added value course assessment. This will sample breadth, challenge and/or application of skills from across the Course.



Skills for Learning, Skills for Life, Skills for Work

- ◆ Greater focus on skills development -
 - Literacy
 - Numeracy
 - Skills for health and well-being
 - Employability, enterprise and citizenship
 - Thinking skills



New Awards

- ◆ Modern Languages for Life and Work -

Levels 3 and 4

- ◆ Personal Achievement -

Access 1 and 2 levels

- ◆ Personal Development –

Levels 2-6

- ◆ Religion, Beliefs and Values

Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6

- ◆ Wellbeing

Levels 3, 4, and 5

Specifications are out now and available from:

www.sqa.org.uk/newawards



Available for delivery in Autumn 2012

Guidance

More guidance and support – for example:

- ♦ **Course and Unit Support Notes:** guidance on delivering Courses and the Units, approaches to learning and teaching:

Jan 12 – National 4 and 5

Feb 12 – Higher

Apr 12 – Access 2 and 3

Mar 13 – Advanced Higher



Timelines

- ◆ **2010** – New curriculum introduced
- ◆ **2012** – Publication of new qualifications from Access to Higher
- ◆ **2013** – Last Exams for Standard Grades
- ◆ **2014** – First new qualifications at levels Access, National 4 and 5
- ◆ **2015** – First new qualifications at Higher
- ◆ **2016** – First new qualifications at Advanced Higher



What's next?

- ◆ Higher draft Course Assessment Specifications Jan 12
- ◆ Nat 4/5 draft Unit and Course Support Notes Jan 12
- ◆ Higher draft Unit and Course Support Notes Feb 12
- ◆ Draft Rationale and Course Summary for A.Higher Mar 12
- ◆ Access2/3 draft Unit and Course Support Notes Apr 12
- ◆ Finalised new Awards Qualifications arrangements and specifications Apr 12

- ◆ **Publication of final Specifications - Apr 12**

- ◆ Assessment support and exemplification
(N4/5 from Apr 12, H from Apr 13. and AH from Apr 14)



How to get involved

www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence

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