

SQA ESOL qualifications and the CEFR

CEFR level		Qualification				SCQF level
Proficient user	C1	Higher ESOL Course (Grade C)				6
Independent User	B2	National 5 ESOL Course (Grade C)				5
	B1	National 4 ESOL Course				4
National 4 Unit ESOL in Context		National 4 Unit ESOL for Everyday Life	National 4 Unit ESOL Assignment (Added Value unit)			
Basic User	A2	National 3 ESOL Course				3
		National 3 Unit ESOL in Context		National 3 Unit ESOL for Everyday Life		
	A1	National 2 Unit ESOL in Context: Listening and Speaking	National 2 Unit ESOL in Context: Reading and Writing	National 2 Unit ESOL for Everyday Life: Listening and Speaking	National 2 Unit ESOL for Everyday Life: Reading and Writing	2

SQA's National Qualifications in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) correspond with levels A1 to C1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This has been confirmed by UK NARIC – the UK's designated national agency for recognising and comparing international qualifications and skills.

For more information, visit www.sqa.org.uk/esol



ESOL equivalent qualifications

	CEFR level	SQA ESOL Courses	IELTS	Cambridge Main Suite	Trinity ISE	Generally accepted ELT levels	ESOL assessments (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) & Skills for Life	SCQF Levels
Proficient User	C2		9.0	CPE	ISE IV	Advanced		
	C1	Higher	8 7.5 7	CAE	ISE III	Lower Advanced	Level 2	6
Independent User	B2	National 5	6.5 6 5.5	FCE	ISE II	Higher Intermediate	Level 1	5
	B1	National 4	5 4.5 4	PET	ISE I	Intermediate	Entry 3	4
Basic User	A2	National 3		KET	ISE 0	Pre-Intermediate	Entry 2	3
	A1	National 2*				Elementary Beginner	Entry 1	2

* Pre-entry: SQA ESOL Literacies units are also available — www.sqa.org.uk/esol