

While ultimate responsibility lies with Scottish Ministers, SQA is largely self-regulating in respect of qualification and assessment standards. SQA is the national body in Scotland, responsible for:

- determining the requirements for SQA awarding body's qualification and assessment standards
- publishing reports on our performance
- investigating complaints and claims of malpractice in relation to our qualifications



THE SCOTTISH STANDARD



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Introducing the Scottish Standard

This leaflet is an introduction to the Scottish Standard, a name you'll hear more of over the coming months and years.

The Scottish Standard is the name we are giving to all the work we do to set, maintain and monitor the standards of SQA qualifications. It brings everything we do with standards under one label. We think it will provide a valuable focus to the good work being done.

What do you mean by 'standards'?

The standards of qualifications are the levels of knowledge and skills that learners need to demonstrate to gain the qualification.

Why are you doing this?

We want people to be able to access information about standards easily, which will help promote confidence in our qualifications.

So the Scottish Standard is partly about explaining what you do?

Yes. It's also about working hard to assure the quality of our qualifications and looking for ways to continuously improve how we maintain standards.



How do you maintain standards?

There are five activities that are vital parts of the way we maintain standards:

1. Setting and revising the standards that qualifications are based on.
2. Sharing the standards of our qualifications with learners, teachers, lecturers and trainers – includes publishing assessments and guidance documents, providing professional development workshops for education and training providers and appointees such as markers, and publishing examples of learners' work.
3. Applying standards through marking and verification.
4. Reporting on standards – includes publishing reports on the quality assurance of our qualifications and annual reports on learners' achievements.
5. Continuously reviewing and improving how we maintain standards.

How do you carry out this work?

We carry out the policies and processes that support these five activities in line with our values of working in partnership; being open, honest and accountable; and being fair and consistent. The work is carried out by trained practitioners with subject and assessment expertise.

How can I find out more?

There is contact information on the other side of this leaflet.

You will also find more information about how we set, maintain and monitor standards at our new Scottish Standard web pages at:
<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/26783.html>

The web pages also feature links to publications and other websites, such as Understanding Standards and SQA Academy.

If this doesn't help you find the information you need, please let us know.