



Final Report for Submissions

1. VTCT Skills Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments at SCQF Level 7

Final Report: SCQF Credit Rating and Levelling Process

Introduction and Summary of the Project

The aim of this project was to allocate the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level and credits for the following qualification:

1. VTCT Skills Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments at SCQF Level 7

The process of SCQF credit rating involved a comprehensive review and assessment of the qualification to ensure it meets the standards set by the SCQF. This report outlines the steps taken, the methodology used, and the final outcomes of the credit rating process.

Names and Roles of Those Involved in the SCQF Credit Rating and Levelling Process

A team of experienced professionals undertook the SCQF credit rating process, each bringing a wealth of expertise to ensure the robustness and accuracy of the rating. The team members and their roles are as follows:

1. [REDACTED] – **Development Expert/Subject Matter Expert (SME) Hairdressing and Barbering**
 - Role: Participate in the entire credit rating process, ensuring adherence to SCQF guidelines. Provided in-depth knowledge of the beauty sectors, contributing to the content review and level determination. Credit and levelling of units and reviewing of units that have been credit and levelled.
2. [REDACTED] – **Qualification Development Expert**
 - Role: Participate in the entire credit rating process, ensuring adherence to SCQF guidelines. Provided in-depth knowledge of the hair and beauty and barbering sectors, contributing to the content review and level determination. Credit and levelling of units and reviewing of units that have been credit and levelled.

Profile of the Average Learner Expected to Undertake the Qualification

1. VTCT Skills Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments at SCQF Level 7

The Level 7 Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments is a beauty aesthetic qualification aimed at level 6 qualified practitioners aged 18 and over, who wish to add a range of Advanced Aesthetic Treatments to their repertoire of treatment offerings and proceed to employment as a level 7 Aesthetic Practitioner. The average learner is expected to have the following profile:

- **Age Range:** 18 years +
- **Professional Experience:** The learner is required to hold a regulated qualification in level 5 and 6 beauty therapy or equivalent.

Process and Methodology Used to Allocate SCQF Level and SCQF Credit

The process of allocating the SCQF level and credit involved several key stages:

1. **Initial Review:** The qualification content was thoroughly reviewed by the Development Experts (SMEs) to understand the scope and depth of the material.
2. **Benchmarking:** Comparable qualifications were examined to determine a preliminary SCQF level. This involved analysing similar qualifications within the SCQF database and other frameworks.
3. **Peer Review:** The qualification was then subjected to a peer review process, where the Peer Reviewer provided feedback on the proposed level and credit.

4. **Standardisation Meeting:** A standardisation meeting was held with all team members to discuss the findings, address any discrepancies, and reach a consensus on the appropriate level and credit.
5. **Verification:** The Verifier conducted a review to ensure the process was rigorous and the outcomes were justified.

How the Overall SCQF Level and Credit Were Determined

The overall SCQF levels and credits were determined through a detailed analysis of the qualifications' learning outcomes, assessment criteria, and the expected learner workload. The rigorous peer review and standardisation process ensured the final decisions were fair, consistent, and aligned with SCQF guidelines.

1. VTCT Skills Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments at SCQF Level 7

We found that SCQF Level 7 is best fit for this qualification as the majority of learning outcomes aligned more complex tasks than those at Level 6, with learning outcomes that include knowledge, skills and understanding, application of facts, principles, processes, and general concepts. Learners are expected to demonstrate independent work, application of knowledge and understanding to different contexts, and problem-solving.

This qualification aligns with SCQF Level 7 due to its emphasis on both theoretical knowledge and applied practice. Learners develop a comprehensive understanding of aesthetic treatments, engaging with key theories and principles. The qualification integrates practical application, requiring learners to perform advanced treatments using professional techniques in both routine and complex scenarios. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are cultivated as learners assess client needs, evaluate treatment outcomes, and adapt procedures accordingly. Communication and numeracy skills are embedded, ensuring the ability to convey complex information clearly, and interpret data for treatment planning. Additionally, learners demonstrate autonomy and accountability. This balance of theoretical depth, practical expertise, and professional responsibility ensures the qualification is a strong fit for SCQF Level 7.

Key Considerations for SCQF Level 7

- **Nature of Tasks:** The qualification prepares learners for intermediate tasks that require applying knowledge to solve problems and adapt to new situations.
- **Guidance and Supervision:** Learners at this level are expected to demonstrate working independently within professional and regulatory frameworks while also collaborating effectively in supervised environments.
- **Knowledge and Understanding:** The focus is on understanding principles and processes, applying them in various contexts, and demonstrating a broad range of advanced aesthetics skills.

Based on the comprehensive review and the established methodologies, the following determinations were made:

1. VTCT Skills Diploma in Advanced Aesthetic Treatments at SCQF Level 7

Mandatory Units	Level	Credit
Principles, practice and ethics of advanced aesthetic therapies	7	11
Investigative consultation for advanced aesthetic therapies	7	11
Skin science for advanced aesthetic therapies	7	12
Mandatory overall values:	7	34
Optional units - learners must select a minimum of 3 units/10 credits from this section of the qualification:	Level	Credit
Core of Knowledge for Laser and Light Devices	7	1

Provide radio frequency treatments	7	7
Provide cosmetic skin needling treatments	7	7
Provide skin peeling treatments	7	7
Enhance appearance using microblading techniques	7	8
Enhance appearance using micropigmentation treatment	7	12
Provide ultrasound treatments	7	7
Enhance appearance using plasma pen techniques	7	3
Enhance appearance using High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU)	7	4
Enhance appearance using dermaplaning techniques	7	3
Enhance appearance using scalp micropigmentation techniques	7	7
Perform hair growth reduction using Intense Pulsed Light systems	7	9
Perform hair growth reduction using LASER systems	7	9
Perform skin rejuvenation using Intense Pulsed Light systems	7	9
Perform skin rejuvenation using LASER systems	7	9
Minimum optional unit values to achieve qualification =	3	10
Total size of qualification (Mandatory plus minimum optional units) =	6	44