

CURRENT ASSESSMENT/QUALIFICATIONS IN SCOTLAND

Type of Assessment		Means of Assessment	Extra Details		
School-Based	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Proposed) transition record 	Observational		
	Baseline Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often done at start of P1, but timing can vary depending on the type of system used by the local authority • On entry to S1 (in principle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally recorded 		
	5-14 Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1-P7 • S1-S2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally recorded 		
SQA	NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	National Tests in: Reading/Writing/Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P1-P7 • S1-S2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally marked as confirmation of level • provided & moderated by SQA 	
		SCE Standard Grade (14-16 year age group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation (grades 5-6) • General (grades 3-4) • Credit (grades 1-2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some elements marked internally (moderated by SQA) • External papers marked by SQA 	New Access & Intermediate National Qualifications likely to be increasingly useful for this age group (no award given until end of S4)
		<u>New National Qualifications ("Higher Still")</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Being phased out</u>
		Access 1 (SCQF level 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualised performance criteria (usually drawn from Access 2 Units, 'elaborated 5-14' and 'achievement mapping schemes') 	Internal (moderated by SQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSYS (old SEB) (Externally marked - grades A-E) • Short Courses*** • National Certificate Awards*** (old SCOTVEC Modules)
		Access 2 (SCQF level 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lifestart - Workstart - Skillstart 1 	Internal (moderated by SQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Certificate Group Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSVQ*** (3 levels with pass/merit grades) - Lifestart/Workstart*** (incorporated into Access 2) - National Certificate Clusters*** - School Group Awards*** - "Old" Higher (Externally marked - grades A-C [plus 'D' grade for narrow fail]) *** internally marked, externally moderated by SQA
		Access 3 (SCQF level 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National link with SCOTVEC 1 Modules • Standard Grade (Foundation) • Skillstart 2 		
		Intermediate 1 (SCQF level 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Grade (General) • GSVQ 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual units internally assessed as pass/fail (some are based on old National Certificate Awards) • All include Core Skills Profile to some extent: (communication, numeracy, information technology, problem-solving, working with others) • Course external exams (SQA National Qualifications) have A-C pass grades: (+Compensatory award of grade A for the next level down if this exists) 	'Course' = 120hours internal assessment (notionally 3x40 hour units) + external assessment (can be a project, particularly in a college situation) (see Appendix 3 attached)
		Intermediate 2 (SCQF level 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Grade (Credit) • GSVQ 2 		
		Higher (SCQF level 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Old" Higher • GSVQ 3 		
		Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSYS • A Level (grades A-C) 		
SGA (Scottish Group Awards)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combinations of free-standing units, clusters & core skills at two adjacent levels (specified level of core skills which must be achieved - tend to be stand-alone units) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower levels = General awards (available at Access 2 • Advanced Higher) • Higher levels = General and "named" awards related to specialisms (aimed particularly at Intermediate 2 and Higher). Less at Advanced Higher 					
HIGHER NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some internal and some external 	Continuing mostly at colleges and workplaces as before (some SVQs/Skillstart in schools)		
HNC, HND and Higher National Units					
SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS					
Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5					
PDA (Professional Development Award)					

Supplementary Notes to Assessment/Qualifications Guide

5-14

The 'Assessment is for Learning' (AiFL) programme for 2004/5 places increased emphasis on formative rather than summative assessment. Thus, assessment is seen as integral to the learning process, with the following three notions of assessment being interdependent:

- Assessment AS learning = learning how to learn
- Assessment OF learning = gathering and interpreting evidence of learning
- Assessment FOR learning = supporting/informing classroom learning and teaching

The development of Personal Learning Planning, as a focal point for pupil self-evaluation and teacher assessment, is central to the programme, as is the further development of National Assessment Bank tools and materials to back up the professional judgments of teachers. (National Assessment Bank contents are developed by SQA in partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland and SEED, within the AiFL programme).

Key implications for the measurement of overall attainment are as follows:

- Until recently the Scottish Executive has collected and published annual 5-14 National Test information in Reading, Writing and Maths. Results were reported at both national and local authority levels. The June 2004 collection was the last time this happened;
- From May 2005, there will be a new Scottish Survey of Achievement. This will build on the more limited Assessment of Achievement Programme. It will use a representative sampling approach to assess pupils' attainments and provide an overview of attainment levels in each education authority and at national level;
- The new SSA survey will report on key areas of the curriculum and core skills in the context of each key area, beginning with English language in 2005 and continuing on a four-yearly cycle to include mathematics, science and social subjects. From 2006, it is intended that this data will be linked to information from international studies and HMIE inspections.

Standard Grades

Not all internally assessed work is passed to SQA for moderation. Some is. For some tasks, the mark awarded by the teacher is accepted, with moderation taking the form of sampling to check validity of teacher's marking. Although all three grades are assessed separately at the end of S4, classes can be arranged by the school. Some set the classes according to the grade the students are expected to achieve; some have overlapping classes foundation/general and general/credit (so that some movement between grades in the course of the two years is possible); others have totally mixed ability classes. Arrangements differ between schools and may differ between subject departments.

National Qualifications at S3/S4

Programmes of work leading to awards at any level can be undertaken in S3/S4, but no award can be made before the end of S4. In practice, this tends to be mostly Access level, but there are some instances of levels above Access being achieved by S4.

Access 1

There are three types of units at Access 1 level:

- Access 1 Supported Units, which are designed principally to ensure that candidates who might always need a level of adult support can be included in the national system of qualifications;
- Access 1 Independent Units are designed principally for candidates who are developing basic skills in a supported learning environment;
- Access 1 Derived Units. These are based on Outcomes of Access 2 Units, which cover a wide range of subject areas. This allows candidates to build up to an Access 2 Unit in a step-by-step approach as they achieve the Outcomes.

Achievements below the level of the Access 1 units are recorded on the student's Record of Achievements, not by SQA. Many students working at this level will be working towards very personal and individual targets not linked to the national accreditation framework. Only where suitable national targets can be identified as appropriate for a student will he/she be brought into the national framework.

Access 2 and 3

At Access 2 and 3 there are National Units and National Clusters. Three National Units comprise a National Cluster. A Cluster is similar to a Course, but it does not have an external exam. Programmes of work at Access 3 are deemed equivalent to Standard Grade Foundation level or the former SCOTVEC 1 modules (though some modules – now 'National Units' are having to be re-aligned to make this equivalence more reliable).

NB Access 3 links notionally with SCOTVEC 1 modules, but alignment tends to vary with the subject at present, since the SCOTVEC modules were written before the development of National Qualifications. Eventually they will be re-jigged to bring them in line with the new system. In the early stages, candidates who had followed a SCOTVEC 1 course were shown as having achieved Access 3 – which didn't please some of them (understandably, since the 're-jigging' has not yet been done and some of the courses are considerably more demanding than the new ones at Access 3).

Levels above Access level

1 National Unit = 1 Credit (pass/fail result). Normally one term length/40 hours
external exam = 1 Credit (graded result)
'Course' = 4 Credits (3 units+external exam). Normally one year length/120 hours

Only external exams are graded A, B, C. Units are assessed internally on a pass/fail basis and where no external exam is taken, they will appear simply as 'pass' on the certificate. However centres entering candidates for an external exam have to predict A, B, C pass levels so may grade the final internal assessment this way to help the prediction.

Scottish Group Awards

Access 2 and 3:

core skills profile + clusters + free-standing units = SGA

Intermed 1 & 2; Higher, Advanced Higher (General Awards):

core skills profile + courses + free-standing units = SGA

A programme of work will be made up of clusters and free-standing units which, together with the requisite core skills profile, will contribute to an eventual Scottish Group Award.

Typically, an SGA will be made up of a prescribed number of complete courses (units + external exam) at the level of the award, plus other free-standing units, some of which may be at the level below the award, including five core skills. At lower levels the awards will be 'general' awards. At upper levels there will be 'general' or 'named' awards. The named awards will be linked to overall programmes of work, which tend towards the named specialisms.

Short Courses/SCOTVEC Modules (formerly used in schools)

Some of these have been absorbed into new units/clusters/courses and will eventually be phased out. Where schools are using provision for which they find there is no equivalent, they may ask for provision to remain as a free-standing unit in the catalogue and may continue to use it and count it at the appropriate level.

Qualification Award Bands

Standard Grades

Credit: 1
2
General: 3
4
Foundation: 5
6

Course Complete

No Award

Higher Grades Award Bands

A (70-100%)

B (60-69%)

C (50-59%)

D (40-49%)

No Award = < 40%

CSYS Award Bands

A (70-100%)

B (60-69%)

C (50-59%)

D (40-49%)

E (30-39%)

No Award = < 30%