

The new National Qualifications — new opportunities shaping your workforce



New National Qualifications are being introduced across Scotland. The new **Nationals**, **Highers** and **Advanced Highers** are replacing Access, Standard Grade and Intermediate qualifications, and the existing Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

What is changing?

The new qualifications support Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), and focus on developing skills, as well as academic achievement.

You can look forward to recruiting young people who have gained knowledge, skills and experience throughout their learning.

What should I look for on CVs?

We (Scottish Qualifications Authority) will issue the first results for the new National Qualifications in August 2014, so now is a good time to get familiar with them. The table shows what to look out for.

SCQF level	Previous or existing National Qualifications	Grades/ results		New National Qualifications	Grades/results
7	Advanced Higher	A to D	▶	Advanced Higher	A to D
6	Higher	A to D	▶	Higher	A to D
5	Intermediate 2	A to D	▶	National 5	A to D
	Standard Grade (Credit level)	1 or 2			
4	Intermediate 1	A to D	▶	National 4	Not graded
	Standard Grade (General level)	3 or 4			
3	Standard Grade (Foundation level)	5 or 6	▶	National 3	Not graded
	Access 3	Not graded			
2	Access 2	Not graded	▶	National 2	Not graded
1	Access 1	Not graded	▶	National 1	Not graded

You can find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/readyreckoner

A chart comparing old and new qualifications from the 1960s to the present day is available from www.scqf.org.uk where you can also keep up to date with Scottish qualifications and learning programmes.

Will young people be ready for the workplace?

Yes. Learners will have developed practical skills like data collection, literacy, numeracy and teamworking. The new qualifications place emphasis on making sure that learners can transfer their skills, knowledge and understanding to different situations.

Subject-based skills are supported by **Core Skills** such as Communication, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Problem Solving.

The new National Courses develop **Skills for Learning Life and Work** (SfLLW) in five broad areas — literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, employability, enterprise and citizenship, and thinking. Find out more at www.sqa.org.uk/sfllw

Learners can also study for a number of awards, such as Personal Development and Employability, which complement both new and existing qualifications. You can see the full range of SQA awards at www.sqa.org.uk/awards

Working with employers

Our CfE Customer Support Managers are continuing to keep employers up to date on the changes to National Qualifications. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeteam to find out more.

For information on how we can work alongside your business, visit www.sqa.org.uk/workwithus





More information

For more information and to download a copy of this leaflet, visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeeforemployers

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