

**Building the College
Curriculum - Professional Learning
Communities
Supporting the Implementation of
Curriculum for Excellence
Monday 30th November 2009
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SQA**



My learning intentions for you

I want to say something about:

- The next generation of National Qualifications
- What you might do with existing qualifications in the interim and beyond



The next generation of national qualifications

- 3 years of intensive engagement and research by SQA: focus groups with Senior Managers, Lecturers and students in 27 colleges
- Seminars, workshops, master-classes, literature reviews and international comparisons
- Consultation June 2008 to October 2008
- Ipsos MORI report February 2009
- Ministerial announcement June 2009



New qualifications at SCQF levels 4 and 5

New qualifications at SCQF 4 and 5 should:

- Reflect the learning of the new curriculum, including its breadth
- Provide transition from Outcomes and Experiences, with increased emphasis on skills
- Ensure that assessment supports, motivates and challenges learners
- Be inclusive, coherent and easy to understand
- Continue to maintain high standards and credibility
- Provide opportunities for learners to develop at different rates, at different times, in different areas across the curriculum



National 4 and National 5: key design features

- Courses unit based, success in contributing Units mandatory
- Units are internally assessed and not graded
- Flexibility in the number of units in courses across curriculum areas
- SCQF level 4: **National 4** – not graded, course award based on achieving units and coursework assessment - SQA will quality assure the assessment
- SCQF level 5: **National 5** – graded A to D, course award based on achieving units, coursework assessment and external assessment by SQA – SQA will quality assure the assessment
- Assessments designed to provide evidence of achievement of units and coursework but also possible to assess units individually
- SQA provided and locally developed assessments



Access, Higher and Advanced Higher

Access, Higher and Advanced Higher will be revised to ensure that they reflect the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. SQA will ensure that they provide good progression to and from National 4 and National 5 and complement the SQA portfolio.



Literacy and Numeracy qualifications

- Available at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5
- Portfolio assessment externally assessed by SQA
- Different broad contexts
- Component based profile
- Available from S3 onwards
- Also available for adults
- SQA will work with partners to agree precise timing and details of implementation



Timeline for the next generation of National Qualifications

- 2010/11 – new curriculum for those in S1
- 2013 – last Standard Grades and current Access 1, 2 & 3
- 2014 – first new qualifications at levels 2 to 5
- 2015 – first new qualifications at level 6
- 2016 – first new qualifications at level 7



Existing Qualifications and CfE

Some examples of current possibilities

- Over 30,000 Units
- Personal Development
- Skills for Work Courses
- NQ Group Awards
- HN Units
- New Core Skills Units
- New smaller awards
- Scottish Baccalaureates



Qualifications and Curriculum for Excellence

- some other awards being developed

- Small Employability Awards – with Skills Development Scotland
- Short Road Safety Award – with Driving Standards Agency
- Small awards for MCMC
- Exploring qualifications in leadership



Task : Building the College Curriculum

In what way might you use the full range of the SQA portfolio, including the new and revised (CfE) qualifications, to design programmes which meet the needs of all learners in the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence and extend school/college partnership arrangements?

