



SQA Qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework



SCQF
Levels

SCQF
Levels

12

12

11

11

10

10

9

9

8

8

7

7

6

6

5

5

4

4

3

3

2

2

1

1

Doctorate*

Masters*

Honours Degree*

Ordinary Degree*

Higher National Diploma

Higher National Certificate

Awards

Advanced Higher
Scottish Baccalaureates

Higher
Skills for Work Higher

National 5 / Intermediate 2 /
Skills for Work National 5

National 4 / Intermediate 1 /
Skills for Work National 4

National 3 / Access 3 /
Skills for Work National 3

SCQF 2 - National 2 / Access 2

SCQF 1 - National 1 / Access 1

National
Progression
Awards/
National
Certificates

Professional
Development
Awards

SVQ 5

SVQ 4

SVQ 3

SVQ 2

SVQ 1

*Benchmark qualifications of higher education institutions

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) helps people to understand and compare different qualifications in Scotland.

It does this by using two measures:

Levels (1–12) show how complex the learning of a qualification is.

Credit points indicate the volume of learning required to achieve a qualification.

One SCQF credit point represents 10 notional learning hours.

SQA qualifications are developed using SCQF level and credit points. This information is shown on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate. The Ready Reckoner shows the level and credit points for SQA Units, Courses and Group Awards.

Units	
Type	SCQF credit points
Higher National Units SCQF levels 5–12	8
National Units SCQF level 7	8
National Units SCQF levels 1–6	6
SVQ Units SCQF levels 4–12	varies

National qualifications		
	SCQF level	SCQF credit points
Advanced Higher	7	32
Higher	6	24
National 5 / Intermediate 2	5	24
National 4 / Intermediate 1	4	24
National 3 / Access 3	3	18
National 2 / Access 2	2	18
National 1 / Access 1	1	6

Scottish Baccalaureates	
SCQF level	SCQF credit points
7	104

Group Awards		
	SCQF level	SCQF credit points
Higher National Diploma	8	240
Higher National Certificate	7	96
National Certificate	4–6	72
National Certificate	2–3	54
Awards ¹	1–12	varies
Professional Development Awards ¹	6–12	varies
National Progression Awards ¹	2–6	varies

Scottish Vocational Qualifications ²	
	SCQF level
SVQ 5	11
SVQ 4	8–9
SVQ 3	6–7
SVQ 2	5
SVQ 1	4

¹ These are flexible Group Awards. SCQF credit points will vary according to the number of credits that they are made up of.

² Please refer to SQA's website for information on SVQs. The allocation of SCQF credit points and levels to SVQs will be undertaken as and when they are revised.