

Helping you to understand the QCF

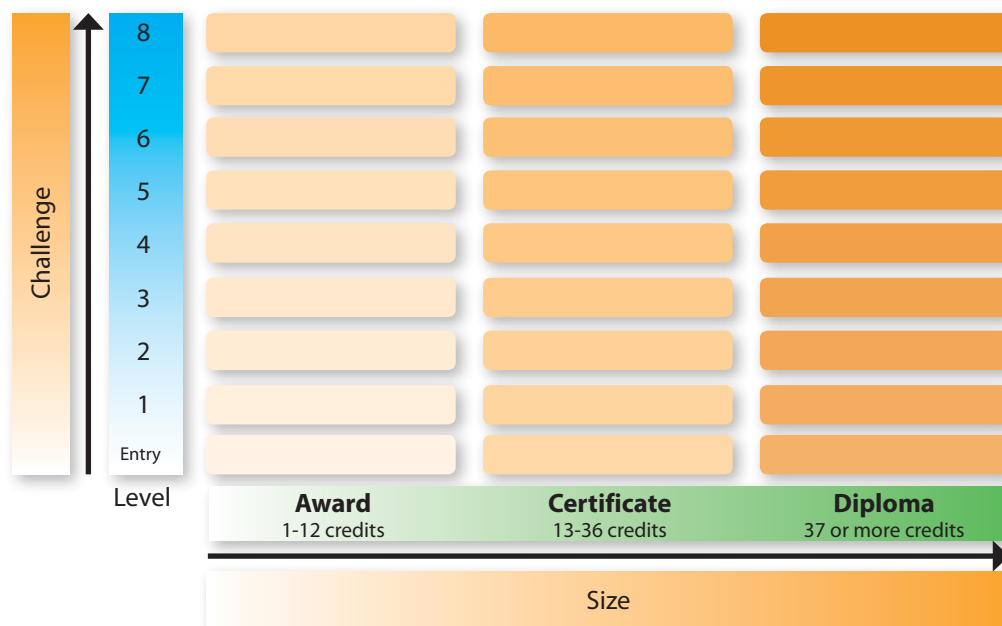
What is the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)?

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is the new way of recognising achievement through awarding credits for units and qualifications. The QCF will gradually replace the NQF (National Qualifications Framework) with a target completion date set for the end of 2010. The QCF will provide:

- A consistent approach to vocational qualifications
- Accessible routes to achieving qualifications
- Qualifications that can be studied in smaller steps to support career based learning.

QCF structure

The qualifications and credit framework architecture



Each qualification is assigned a title which will indicate:

1) The level of the qualification (the complexity and depth of learning)

Entry level in the QCF is comprised of 3 levels to facilitate upwards progression. There are then 8 levels in the framework, with level 8 equivalent to postgraduate level learning. Depending on the rules of combination (how units are combined together) QCF qualifications can contain units from different levels. The level of the qualification can either be drawn from the levels of the majority of the units or the levels of the mandatory unit(s).

2) The size of the qualification (the volume of learning)

- Award (1 to 12 credits)
- Certificate (13 to 36 credits)
- Diploma (37 credits or more).

3) The content of the qualification

- Awarding organisations will work closely with Sector Skills Councils/Bodies to determine the content of the qualifications
- The core content of a qualification can be common across awarding organisations by the use of "shared" units. These are units on the QCF that can be assessed by any awarding organisation.

How it works in practice

Units and credit values

Each unit will have a credit value, which represents how long the learning element of that unit will take to complete. One credit represents 10 notional hours of learning.

Qualifications will be made up of a combination of mandatory and optional units. The credit and units required to complete a qualification are identified using the rules of combination.

Transfer of credit

Where rules of combination allow, learners will be able to build credit and transfer that credit between awarding organisations so that a bite size approach to learning can be supported.

Shared units can be directly transferred between Awarding Organisations. This will allow learners to proceed without having to repeat any previously achieved units.

Learner records

Learners will be given access to an online Learner Record using their ULN (unique learner number) that will log all unit and qualification achievements. This same system will also allow awarding organisations to review a learner's previous achievements and record their new achievements in a central repository.

For further QCF developments watch this space . .

If you have any further questions regarding the QCF please telephone the customer contact centre on **024 76 851509**, email **vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk**, or visit the QCA website: **www.qca.org.uk/qca_19674.aspx**

www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

Vocational qualifications

Telephone 024 76 851509

Facsimile 024 76 421944

Email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Head office

1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU

Telephone 01223 552552

Facsimile 01223 552553

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored.

© OCR 2009 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England.

Registered office 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.



FS 27093