

Introducing the NOCN ITQs

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Background to the ITQ Framework



- National Occupational Standards for Using IT (2008)
- Sector Skills Agreement for IT (SSA)



SSA for IT

Sets out a clear target statement for stakeholders delivering and beneficiaries receiving better IT user skills:

- a simplified, flexible framework for recognising achievement in IT skills operates across the UK, throughout both the education system and industry



Sector Qualification & Learning Strategy (SQLS)



- workers in virtually all occupations need to be able to use more sophisticated IT systems more effectively.
- users will not only need increased levels of skills in basic desk top technology, but will also need to be skilled in security management and IT support processes and tools, and the use of communications and mobile technologies



IT User Skills (ITQ)

- **flexibility of approach** in response to sector, employer and learner needs
- **flexibility of content** to stimulate and inspire new learning and support progression
- **flexibility of assessment method** as appropriate to the individual and the unit



NOCN IT User Skills (ITQ) (QCF)



- 9 qualifications (Award, Certificate, Diploma)
- Level 1, Level 2, Level 3
- minimum learner age – 14
- all units developed by *e-skills UK*
- common/shared units – used by all Awarding Organisations



QCF ITQ Framework



- one **mandatory** unit (only applicable to Certificate and Diploma size qualifications)
- Using IT systems
- Using IT to find and exchange information
- Using IT productivity tools and applications



Rules of Combination

Award	QCF Level 1	QCF Level 2	QCF Level 3
Credit value (minimum)	9	10	12
Mandatory unit	n/a	n/a	n/a
Optional units	Minimum 6 credits at Level 1.	Minimum 7 credits at Level 2.	Minimum 8 credits at Level 3.



Rules of Combination



Certificate	QCF Level 1	QCF Level 2	QCF Level 3
Credit value (min)	13	13	25
Mandatory unit	Level 1: Improving Productivity using IT	Level 2: Improving Productivity using IT	Level 3: Improving Productivity using IT
Optional units	10 credits + Min 5 credits at Level 1 + Up to 3 credits at Entry 3	9 credits + Min 5 credits at Level 2 + Min 7 credits from units in ITQ Framework No credits at Entry 3	20 credits + Min 10 credits at Level 3 No credits at Entry 3
Sector Specific Unit (SSU)	Max 3 credits at any relevant level	Max 4 credits at any relevant level	Max 5 credits at any relevant level



Rules of Combination

Diploma	QCF Level 1	QCF Level 2	QCF Level 3
Credit value (min)	37	38	39
Mandatory unit	Level 1: Improving Productivity using IT	Level 2: Improving Productivity using IT	Level 3: Improving Productivity using IT
Optional units	34 credits + Min 17 credits at Level 1 + Up to 5 credits at Entry 3	34 credits + Min 17 credits at Level 2 + No credits at Entry 3	34 credits + Min 17 credits at Level 3 No credits at Entry 3
Sector Specific Unit (SSU)	Max 3 credits at any relevant level	Max 4 credits at any relevant level	Max 5 credits at any relevant level



Equivalencies and Exemptions



The QCF enables learners to avoid duplication of learning and assessment through equivalencies or exemptions as follows:

- for achievements within the QCF it is possible to transfer credits (**equivalent**)
- individuals with certificated achievements outside the QCF can claim **exemption** from the requirement to achieve credits for designated units



Sector Specific Units (SSUs)

A Sector Specific Unit is a QCF accredited unit from another sector.

It can be used as **an equivalent unit** within the ITQ.



Assessment – Mandatory Unit

The assessment design must cover the following aspects:

- **Objectives for using IT**
- **Application of IT skills and knowledge**
- **Evaluation of the use of IT**



Assessment Methods

- e-assessment
- knowledge tests
- scenario-based assessment
- witness testimony
- professional discussion
- portfolio of evidence taken from activities involving the use of contemporary ICT systems



Useful Links



www.itq.e-skills.com

- NOS for IT Users
- ITQ Assessment Strategy
- resources
- forum

www.nocn.org.uk

- Qualification Guide
- ITQ units

