

Ofqual

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Guidance

Qualification descriptions

Updated 29 October 2015

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1.

Introduction

[Section 132 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#) allows organisations to apply to be recognised for 'descriptions of qualifications' as well as individual qualifications.

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This guidance explains the different qualification types (or descriptions of

qualifications) you can apply for. These may be at different levels or in different [sector subject areas](#).

2.

Qualification descriptions

- GCSE (A* to G), general certificate of secondary education graded A* to G
- GCSE (9 to 1), general certificate of secondary education graded 9 to 1
- GCE AS level, general certificate of education, advanced subsidiary level
- GCE A levels, general certificate of education, advanced level
- entry level
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- functional skills
- national vocational qualifications (NVQs)
- other general qualifications
- free-standing mathematics
- project
- principal learning
- vocationally related qualifications (VRQs)

3.

Sector subject areas

We classify all qualifications using the numbered categories in the tables below. You will need to refer to these tables when making your application for recognition.

1 - Health, Public Services and Care

1.1 - Medicine and dentistry

1.2 - Nursing, and subjects and vocations allied to medicine

1.3 - Health and social care

1.4 - Public services

1.5 - Child development and well being

2 - Science and Mathematics

2.1 - Science

2.2 - Mathematics and statistics

3 - Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care

3.1 - Agriculture

3.2 - Horticulture and forestry

3.3 - Animal care and veterinary science

3.4 - Environmental conservation

4 - Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies

4.1 - Engineering

4.2 - Manufacturing technologies

4.3 - Transportation operations and maintenance

5 - Construction, Planning and the Built Environment

5.1 - Architecture

5.2 - Building and construction

5.3 - Urban, rural and regional planning

6 - Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

6.1 - ICT practitioners

6.2 - ICT for users

7 - Retail and Commercial Enterprise

7.1 - Retailing and wholesaling

7.2 - Warehousing and distribution

7.3 - Service enterprises

7.4 - Hospitality and catering

8 - Leisure, Travel and Tourism

8.1 - Sport, leisure and recreation

8.2 - Travel and tourism

9 - Arts, Media and Publishing

9.1 - Performing arts

9.2 - Crafts, creative arts and design

9.3 - Media and communication

9.4 - Publishing and information services

10 - History, Philosophy and Theology

10.1 - History

10.2 - Archaeology and archaeological sciences

10.3 - Philosophy

10.4 - Theology and religious studies

11 - Social Sciences

11.1 - Geography

11.2 - Sociology and social policy

11.3 - Politics

11.4 - Economics

11.5 - Anthropology

12 - Languages, Literature and Culture

12.1 - Languages, literature and culture of the British isles

12.2 - Other languages, literature and culture

12.3 - Linguistics

13 - Education and Training

13.1 - Teaching and lecturing

13.2 - Direct learning support

14 - Preparation for Life and Work

14.1 - Foundations for learning and life

14.2 - Preparation for work

15 - Business, Administration, Finance and Law

15.1 - Accounting and finance

15.2 - Administration

15.3 - Business management

15.4 - Marketing and sales

15.5 - Law and legal services

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