

Criteria for Entry-level Qualifications



July 2011

Ofqual/11/4877

Contents

The criteria.....	2
Introduction	2
Content of Entry-level qualifications	2
Assessment in Entry-level qualifications	3
Reporting of Entry-level qualifications	3

The criteria

Introduction

1. The following criteria will be used as the basis for the development and accreditation of all Entry-level qualifications.
2. Criteria for Entry-level qualifications were previously published within *The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2004)*.

Content

3. Entry-level qualifications must:
 - 3.1 be designed to facilitate learning in practical situations which motivate candidates and are relevant to adult life;
 - 3.2 enable attainment to be reported at one or more of the sub-levels: Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3, where Entry 3 is the highest outcome;
 - 3.3 align Entry 1, Entry 2 and/or Entry 3 with the standards specified by the regulators;
 - 3.4 be consistent with statutory requirements as follows:
 - 3.4.1 for National Curriculum subjects, with the relevant statutory programmes of study for the subjects;
 - 3.4.2 for religious education and religious studies, with the statutory requirements appropriate to the age of the candidates;
 - 3.5 provide a basis of progression to other relevant qualifications:
 - 3.5.1 for literacy, numeracy and information technology, to corresponding key skills, GCSEs and other relevant qualifications;
 - 3.5.2 for national curriculum subjects, religious education and religious studies, to corresponding GCSEs and other relevant qualifications;
 - 3.5.3 for other areas of learning, to relevant qualifications at, and beyond level 1.

Assessment

4. Assessment arrangements for Entry-level qualifications must:
 - 4.1 ensure that the range of assessment methods proposed for each of the sub-levels, Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, enable candidates to appropriately demonstrate their achievement
 - 4.2 involve practical and/or oral, and/or written work as appropriate to the area of learning;
 - 4.3 be capable of use in a range of settings;
 - 4.4 require candidates to generate evidence of working independently, allowing for reasonable adjustments as set out in the *General Conditions of Recognition* (G6)
 - 4.5 include tasks that are externally set or validated, externally marked or moderated, and conducted under supervised and specified conditions;
 - 4.6 require that such tasks contribute at least:
 - 4.6.1 50 per cent to the overall award in the case of National Curriculum subjects: literacy, numeracy and information technology;
 - 4.6.2 40 per cent to the overall award in other cases;
 - 4.7 require that any end-of-unit or terminal assessment, whether externally or internally set, is conducted under supervised and specified conditions;
 - 4.8 specify arrangements for re-tests.

Reporting of Entry-level qualifications

5. Attainment must be reported at one or more of the sub-levels Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3, where Entry 3 is the highest outcome.

We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.

First published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in 2011

© Crown copyright 2011

You may re-use this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the [Open Government Licence](#). To view this licence, [visit The National Archives](#); or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU; or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is also available on our website at www.ofqual.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	
Spring Place	2nd Floor
Coventry Business Park	Glendinning House
Herald Avenue	6 Murray Street
Coventry CV5 6UB	Belfast BT1 6DN

Telephone 0300 303 3344

Textphone 0300 303 3345

Helpline 0300 303 3346