

THE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN THE UK

<u>Main stages of education / employment</u>	<u>The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework</u>	<u>England, Wales & Northern Ireland National Qualifications Framework</u>	<u>National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland</u>
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	Level 1 Access Level 2 Access, NPA, National Certificate Level 3 Access, Foundation Standard Grade, NPA, National Certificate	Entry level Entry Level Certificate, ESOL skills for life	Level 1 Level 1 Certificate Level 2 Level 2 Certificate
Secondary education Initial entry into employment or further education	Level 4 Intermediate 1, General Standard Grade, SVQ 1, NPA, National Certificate	Level 1 NVQ, VRQ, GCSEs at grade D-G, ESOL skills for life	Level 3 Level 3 Certificate, Junior Certificate
Continuation of secondary education. Progression to skilled employment. Completion of secondary education	Level 5 Intermediate 2, Credit Standard Grade, SVQ 2, NPA, National Certificate	Level 2 NVQ, VRQ, GCSEs at grade A*- C, ESOL skills for life	Level 4 Level 4 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
Entry to higher education Qualified/Skilled worker	Level 6 SVQ 3, PDA, NPA, National Certificate Higher,	Level 3 NVQ, VRQ, A Level	Level 5 Level 5 Certificate, Leaving Certificate
Specialised education and training	Level 7 Advanced Higher, PDA, Higher National Certificate, Certificate of Higher Education	Level 4 NVQ Level 4, HND	Level 6 Advanced Certificate, Higher Certificate
Entry to professional graduate employment	Level 8 Higher National Diploma, SVQ 4, PDA, Diploma of Higher Education Level 9 Ordinary Degree, PDA, Graduate Diploma/Certificate	Level 5 NVQ Level 4	Level 7 Ordinary Bachelor Degree
Intermediate / higher education Advanced skills training	Level 10 Honours Degree, PDA, Graduate Diploma/Certificate	Level 6 NVQ Level 4	Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree, Higher Diploma
Professional or postgraduate education or employment	Level 11 SVQ 5, PDA, Masters	Level 7 Fellowships, NVQ Level 5	Level 9 Masters Degree, Post-graduate Diploma
	Level 12 PDA, Doctorates	Level 8 Highly specialist Diploma from a professional body	Level 10 Doctoral Degree, Higher Doctorate

(Qualifications Across Boundaries, 2007)