



Skills for Learning Professionals

New qualifications for assessing and assuring the quality of assessment

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New qualifications have been developed for assessing and assuring the quality of assessment of vocational achievement. They have been developed in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) that offers increased flexibility in the way vocational achievement can be assessed and demonstrated

Standards and qualifications for assessing and assuring the quality of assessment

Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) has developed new National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development. The standards were approved in March 2010 and are available to download here: <http://www.lluk.org/4556.htm>

The new standards reflect current practice in learning and development and describe what a person needs to do, know and understand in order to carry out their learning and development role in a consistent and competent way. All those assessing and assuring the quality of assessment will use the standards to inform their practice and identify professional development needs. The standards will also be used to underpin all new qualifications for learning and development roles.

New qualifications have now been developed for assessors, internal verifiers and external verifiers. They were developed through extensive consultation at the same time as the standards. A number of qualifications have been developed for each of these roles and the titles of the qualifications are listed at the end of this fact sheet. They have been developed for the QCF in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The qualifications will be available from a number of awarding organisations from the 1st **September 2010**. Many awarding organisations are already promoting the qualifications. Information is available on their websites and at promotional events.

The guidance document for awarding organisations wishing to develop the new qualifications is available on our website: <http://www.lifelonglearninguk.org/4607.htm>

Assessing vocational achievement

Qualifications have been developed for assessing competence in the work environment and also for assessing vocationally related achievement. The new qualifications for assessors are available for all those working in an assessor role.

Sector Skills councils (SSC) and Standards Setting Bodies (SSB) are working with awarding organisations to agree what qualifications will be used to assess occupational competence. Assessors and their employers will need to refer to each SSC/SSBs assessment strategy to identify if an assessor qualification is required for the assessment of a particular vocational qualification.



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The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, the Joint Council for Qualifications and the Federation of Awarding Bodies have agreed additional requirements for assessing qualifications that use the title NVQ within the QCF. This includes the requirement for assessors to hold or be working towards a suitable assessor qualification.

Those holding assessor qualifications, including A and D units, will not need to undertake the new qualifications. The qualifications will continue to be considered as a suitable assessor qualification. These assessors should of course undertake continuing professional development to ensure they are working to the new standards.

What's new?

A knowledge and understanding unit has been developed for each of these roles. This will ensure enough attention is given to this. It will also provide a professional development opportunity for those managing or wishing to undertake one of these roles.

Qualifications in Scotland

LLUK is currently consulting on SVQs in Learning and Development. These include units for assessing and assuring the quality of assessment. It is expected that these units will be developed by awarding bodies as qualifications for assessors and verifiers in Scotland

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An overview of the new qualifications

New qualifications for **assessors**:

- Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
- Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement

New qualifications for **internal quality assurance** staff (currently known as 'internal verifiers'):

- Level 4 Award in Understanding the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

New qualifications for **external quality assurance** staff (currently known as 'external verifiers'):

- Level 4 Award in Understanding the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Award in the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

The new qualifications will replace current qualifications in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF):

- Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates' Performance Using a Range of Methods ('A1')
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates' Performance through Observation ('A2')
- Level 4 Award in Conducting Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process ('V1')
- Level 4 Award in Conducting External Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process ('V2')