

curriculum for excellence



# New National 4 and National 5 qualifications





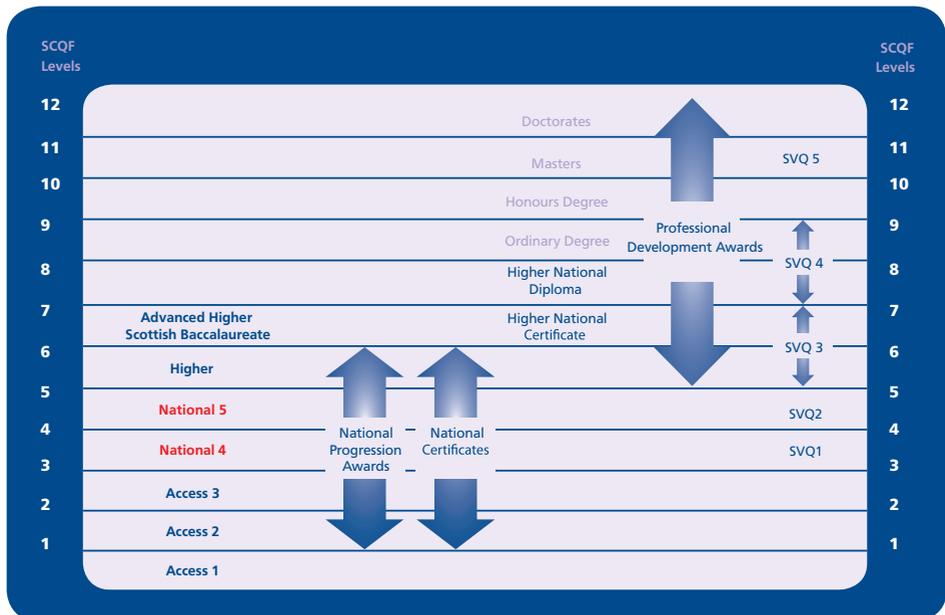
## New qualifications at SCQF levels 4 and 5

New qualifications were announced in June by the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop. Called **National 4** and **National 5**, they will replace Standard Grade General and Credit, and Intermediate 1 and 2 qualifications.

National 4 and National 5 will offer increased flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and more scope for personalisation. They will meet the needs of all learners as they progress from their broad, general education through the qualifications framework to other learning and to employment.

SQA warmly welcomes the announcement and looks forward to developing the new qualifications in partnership with the teaching profession, Scottish Government, and national and local partners.

## SQA qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework



## Curriculum for Excellence

The new **National Qualifications** will play a key role in helping to deliver the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. They will help raise standards of achievement, improve learning experiences, and develop skills for learning, life and work.

Young people and adult learners will benefit from qualifications that support the curriculum rather than lead it. They will experience a better planned and a better connected educational experience.

The assessment will promote breadth and depth of understanding. It will motivate and challenge learners, and ensure that they can move smoothly from a broad, general education into learning that leads to qualifications.

## Assessment

Approaches to assessment will be more closely linked to learning.

Units in **National 4 Courses** will be assessed by teachers. Teachers will also assess coursework which will draw upon skills and knowledge developed across a Course providing challenging and motivating tasks for learners. There will be no external assessment or grading at this level.

Units in **National 5 Courses** will be assessed by teachers. National 5 Courses will also be assessed by a combination of coursework assessed by teaching staff and by an external SQA assessment (an examination, where appropriate). The external SQA assessment will require the learner to apply and/or integrate skills, knowledge and understanding. National 5 Courses will be graded (A–D).



The assessment types used will reflect best assessment practice. Support materials will be provided to support assessment decisions. They will include examples of learners' work with commentaries.

Good practice which reduces the time spent on assessment for certification will be encouraged.

SQA quality assurance procedures will ensure national standards are maintained in all assessments.

## Impact on other National Qualifications

National Qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher levels will be revised to ensure that they reflect the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. SQA will review National Qualifications at other levels to ensure that they provide good progression to, and from, National 4 and National 5.

## Going forward

National 4 and National 5 and the revised National Qualifications at Access, Higher and Advanced Higher will equip Scotland's young people and adult learners with the skills and knowledge and understanding they will need for the challenges of the 21st century.

You can find the latest information about National 4 and National 5 on SQA's Curriculum for Excellence web pages:

[www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence](http://www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence).



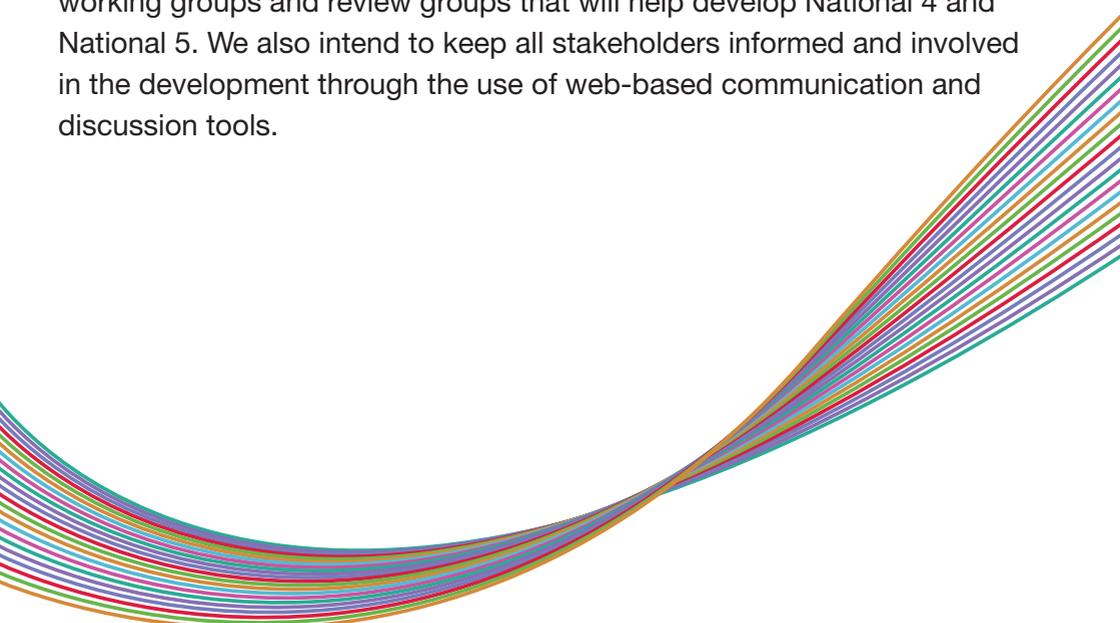
## Timetable

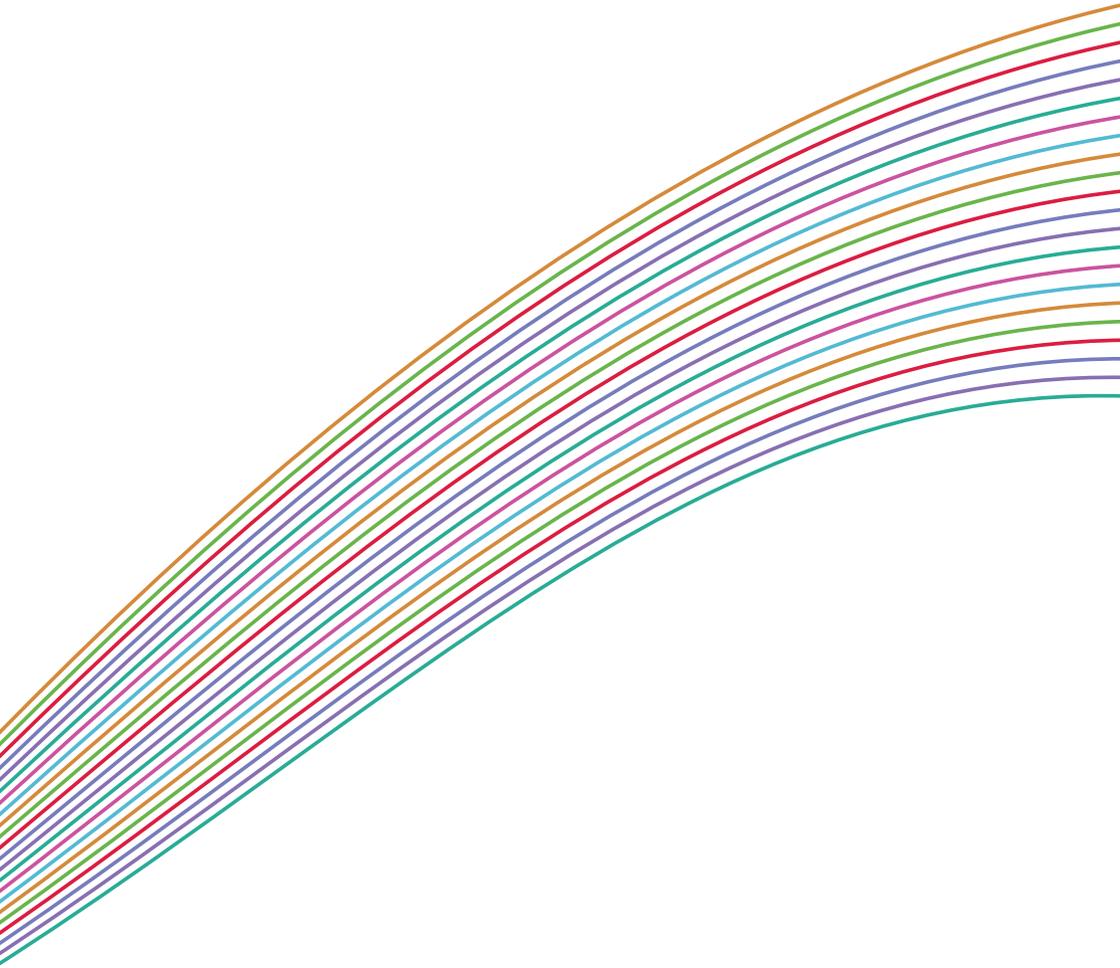
Here is the timetable for introducing the new National Qualifications:

Session	Changes to National Qualifications
2012–13	Last examinations of Standard Grade
2013–14	New National 4 and National 5 qualifications available
2014–15	New revised Higher qualification available
2015–16	New revised Advanced Higher qualification available

We want to implement the new qualifications without any risk to young people's education. So the current National Qualifications — Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher — will still be available in 2013–14 and 2014–15 for those young people who have followed the current curriculum in their S1 to S4 schooling.

As with any new qualification, SQA is ensuring that our partners and the teaching profession are fully involved in the qualifications design teams, working groups and review groups that will help develop National 4 and National 5. We also intend to keep all stakeholders informed and involved in the development through the use of web-based communication and discussion tools.





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