

Quality Assurance of outcome based qualifications in Scotland

**EU Presidency
Conference 2011**

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Background

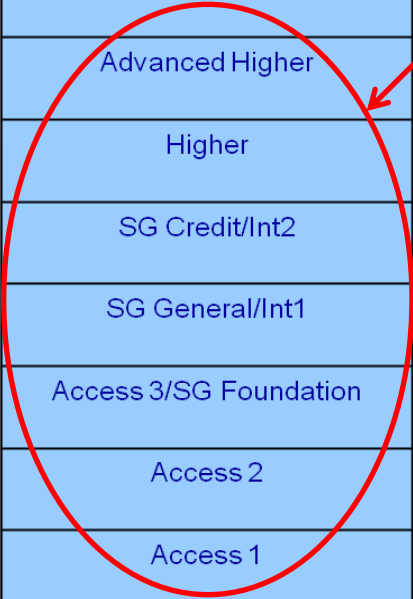
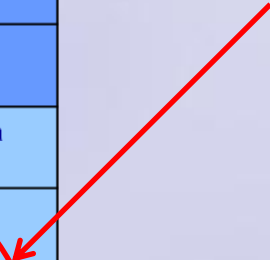
In Scotland the development of outcomes based qualifications since 1984 years have given us steady progress and democratisation:

- ◆ Greater inclusion, social justice and equity for learners
- ◆ Greater teacher involvement, particularly in assessment and quality assurance of standards
- ◆ Increased fairness and fitness for purpose in assessment
- ◆ Single framework for all qualifications
- ◆ More choice for institutions, teachers and learners
- ◆ A more comprehensive and coherent system
- ◆ Dramatic increases in both level and number of qualifications



12	Doctorate
11	Masters
10	Honours Degree
9	Ordinary Degree
8	Higher National Diploma
7	Advanced Higher
6	Higher
5	SG Credit/Int2
4	SG General/Int1
3	Access 3/SG Foundation
2	Access 2
1	Access 1

National Qualifications



Design of new National outcome based Qualifications in Scotland

- ◆ Fewer and broader outcomes
- ◆ More **skills-based** and **less prescriptive**
- ◆ More **flexible** to encourage **holistic assessment** where appropriate
- ◆ More flexible, with more room for teachers and to exercise **professional judgement**
- ◆ Mixture of **internal** assessment by teachers and **external** assessment.



Some challenges

- ◆ Maintaining National standard across subjects and levels
- ◆ Maintaining public confidence in qualifications system at a time of change
- ◆ Developing robust quality assurance systems within financial constraints
- ◆ Facilitating teacher buy in to new assessment processes
- ◆ Facilitating teacher assessment literacy and teacher development of assessments



Some possible solutions

- ◆ Need for robust internal and external QA – credibility
- ◆ Approaches need to be developmental – CPD
- ◆ Approaches need to be inclusive and foster collegiality
- ◆ Role of SQA as guardian of national standards
- ◆ Need to create long-term capacity and build confidence
- ◆ Importance of professional dialogue – across Institutions, Sectors and Regions
- ◆ Shared responsibility through partnerships
- ◆ IT solutions
- ◆ Proportionate and targeted QA

