

Appendix G Prior attainment levels

Version 1.0 Published March 2013. Changes from 2012/13 highlighted in yellow.

Version 2.0 Published April 2013. Additions from v1 highlighted in green.

The information shown in the table below provides a guide to the overall attainment level of learners that have achieved various combinations of qualifications. The levels shown do not necessarily coincide with the level at which individual qualifications are set. For example, GCE AS levels are at level 3, but the level of attainment achieved by a learner who has taken AS level qualifications depends on the number of qualifications achieved, one AS level being needed for the learner to attain level 1, at least two to attain full level 2 and at least 4 to attain full level 3.

For 2013/14 we have introduced new levels in the Prior attainment field with new corresponding codes for levels 4 to 7+. This is to align the prior attainment levels collected with the current levels used by Ofqual. The table below describes both the National Qualifications Framework and the Current Ofqual Regulated framework. Under the current Ofqual framework, levels 4 and 5 have been expanded, with the previous level 4 extended to levels 4 to 6 depending upon the qualification, and the previous level 5+ now level 7+ (on the ILR Prior attainment field).

For learners who start on or after 1st August 2013, the prior attainment must be recorded using the current framework. Continuing learners can continue to use codes 4 and 5 for levels 4 and 5.

Prior attainment level descriptors	Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF)
Entry level (code 7, 9)	QCF Award at Entry level QCF Certificate at Entry level Certificate in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL at Entry level
Level 1 (code 1)	GCSE/O Level (5 or more at grades D-G or fewer than 5 at grades A-C) CSE below grade 1 1 AS Level QCF Diploma Level 1 QCF Certificate Level 1 QCF Award Level 1 Foundation 14-19 Diploma Functional Skills Certificate in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL at Level 1 Level 1 Key Skills Level 1 Principal Learning Introductory Diploma Introductory Certificate GNVQ Foundation NVQ Level 1
Full Level 2 (code 2)	GCSE/O Level (5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C) 2 or 3 AS Levels CSE Grade 1 (5 or more) 1 A Level Higher 14-19 Diploma QCF Diploma level 2 QCF Certificate level 2 Level 2 Principal Learning

Prior attainment level descriptors	Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF)
	NVQ level 2 GNVQ Intermediate
Full Level 3 (code 3)	A Levels (2 or more advanced level passes) 4 or more AS Levels QCF Diploma Level 3 QAA Access to HE Advanced 14-19 Diploma GNVQ Advanced NVQ level 3 AVCE double award

Prior attainment level descriptors	Current Ofqual Regulated (incorporating NQF and QCF)	National Qualification framework (used in ILR prior to 2013/14, valid for continuing learner's only)	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
Level 4 (code 10)	QCF Award Level 4 QCF Certificate Level 4 QCF Diploma Level 4 HNC	Level 4 (code 4) NVQ level 4 Level 4 Professional Certificate Level 4 Professional Diploma	Certificates of higher education
Level 5 (code 11)	QCF Award Level 5 QCF Certificate Level 5 QCF Diploma Level 5 HND		Foundation degrees
Level 6 (code 12)	QCF Award Level 6 QCF Certificate Level 6 QCF Diploma Level 6		Bachelor's degrees; graduate certificates and diplomas
Level 7+ (code 13)	QCF Award Level 8 QCF Certificate Level 8 QCF Diploma Level 8	Level 5+ (code 5) Continuing education diploma; NVQ level 5 Level 5 Professional Certificate	Doctorates
	QCF Award Level 7 QCF Certificate Level 7 QCF Diploma Level 7		Masters degrees; postgraduate certificates and diplomas