

Appendix G

Prior attainment levels

Version 1 Published February 2014.

Version 2 Published March 2014, changes are highlighted in yellow.

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 learners who started on or after 1st August 2013, the prior attainment must be recorded using the current Ofqual Regulated framework for levels 4 and above. Learners whose prior attainment was recorded prior to 1st August 2013 can continue to use the National Qualification Framework codes 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 at 13 or 14 credits undertaken before 2014/15 Level 2 Principal Learning NVQ level 2 GNVQ Intermediate Substantial level 2 vocational qualifications in the 16-19 performance tables QCF Certificate level 2 at 15 credits and above
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

Prior attainment level descriptors	Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF)
	GNVQ Advanced NVQ level 3 AVCE double award Tech Levels which are in the 16-19 Performance Tables Early Years Educator qualifications which are 30 credits or more or 300 guided learning hours or more. QCF Certificate at Level 3 which is 30 to 36 credits

Prior attainment level descriptors	Current Ofqual Regulated Framework (incorporating NQF and QCF)	National Qualification framework (used in ILR prior to 2013/14, valid for continuing learners 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