

Appendix G

Prior attainment levels

Version 1: Published March 2016. Changes from 2015 to 2016 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, GCSEs are at level 1/2, but the level of attainment achieved by a learner is dependent on the grade they achieve. Where a learner attains a grade D-G this would be considered a level 1.

For learners who started on or after 1st August 2013, the prior attainment must be recorded using the current Ofqual Regulated Qualifications 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+.

The guidance has been updated to reflect the introduction of the [Regulated Qualification Framework \(RQF\)](#) from the 1 October 2015 and the decoupling of AS Levels from A Levels from September 2015.

Prior attainment level descriptors	Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF and RQF)
Entry level (code 7, 9)	QCF Award at Entry level QCF Certificate at Entry level Certificate in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL at Entry level RQF qualifications at Entry Level English and Maths Stepping Stones qualifications at Entry Level Functional Skills
Level 1 (code 1)	GCSE/O Level (at grades D-G or fewer than 5 at grades A-C) CSE below grade 1 1 AS Level (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015) 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 RQF qualifications at Level 1 Technical Awards in the Key Stage 4 Performance Tables
Full Level 2 (code 2)	GCSE/O Level (5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C) 2 or 3 AS Levels (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015) 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 to 2015 Level 2 Principal Learning NVQ level 2 GNVQ Intermediate

Prior attainment level descriptors	Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF and RQF)
	Technical Certificates in the 16-19 Performance Tables QCF Certificate level 2 at 15 credits and above From 1 August 2015 vocational qualifications of 150 GLH or more
Full Level 3 (code 3)	A Levels (2 or more advanced level passes) 4 or more AS Levels (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015) QCF Diploma Level 3 QAA Access to HE Advanced 14-19 Diploma GNVQ Advanced NVQ level 3 AVCE double award Tech Levels which are in the 16-19 Performance Tables Applied Generals which are in the 16-19 Performance Tables (from 1 August 2015) QCF Certificate at Level 3 which is 30 to 36 credits From 1 August 2015 vocational qualifications of 300 GLH or more

Prior attainment level descriptors	Current Ofqual Regulated Framework (incorporating QCF and RQF)	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 RQF qualifications Level 4	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 RQF qualifications Level 5		Foundation degrees
Level 6 (code 12)	QCF Award Level 6 QCF Certificate Level 6 QCF Diploma Level 6 RQF qualifications Level 6		Bachelor's degrees; graduate certificates and diplomas
Level 7+ (code 13)	QCF Award Level 7 QCF Certificate Level 7 QCF Diploma Level 7 RQF qualifications Level 7	Level 5+ (code 5) Continuing education diploma; NVQ level 5 Level 5 Professional Certificate	Doctorates
	QCF Award Level 8 QCF Certificate Level 8 QCF Diploma Level 8 RQF qualifications Level 8		Masters degrees; postgraduate certificates and diplomas