

Annex C: guidance for type assignment

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please step through the document from the beginning, answering the questions one by one. Once you have arrived at a qualification type use the description to check that the type is appropriate to the qualification. If you think that multiple types may be appropriate for the qualification please use the type that appears first in the document.

Question 1:
Has the qualification or assessment been developed to specific regulatory requirements?

Yes

No

- **Advanced Extension Award**
- **End-Point Assessment**
- **English For Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Essential Skills (Northern Ireland)**

- **Functional Skills**
- **GCE A level**
- **GCE AS level**
- **GCSE (9 to 1)**
- **GCSE (A* to G)**
- **Project**

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Question 2:

Is the qualification of a type that is taken as the core of a learner's curriculum in mainstream secondary or tertiary education?

Yes

- Other General

These qualifications are academic in nature and are often taken in schools and colleges as part of secondary and tertiary education. Often the aim of these qualifications is to secure a body of knowledge and progress learners through to higher levels of academic study. Examples are baccalaureates, the Cambridge Pre-U, international GCSEs, free standing mathematics and entry level qualifications in academic subjects.

No

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Question 3:

Is the qualification vocational in nature (does it relate to a particular job or subject area), or does it teach knowledge or skills that are essential for employment?

Yes

No

Question 4:

Should a learner reasonably expect to move directly into employment on completing the qualification?

Yes

No

- Occupational Qualifications

These qualifications have a clear and direct link to one or more occupations, and an individual completing the qualifications could reasonably expect to have the knowledge, skills and understanding to move directly into skilled employment in the occupation. They are likely to be based on recognised occupational standards with at least some work based or simulated work based assessment. An NVQ is a form of occupational qualification.

- Other Life Skills

These qualifications are not in academic subjects. They are not related to a particular area of work. They are often in life skills, literacy, numeracy, basic IT skills, preparation for working life, employability skills or citizenship but do not fall into another defined type (Functional Skills, ESOL or Essential Skills).

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Question 5:

Is the qualification in a particular vocational sector, providing a learner with an introduction and allowing them to develop some job-related skills?

Yes

No

- Vocationally-Related Qualification

These qualifications are broader in scope than Occupational Qualifications and may be introductions to an area of work without developing a recognised competence or often leading directly to employment. They often certificate taught programmes delivered in a classroom or workshop setting. Next steps might include progression into employment in the related sector, apprenticeship or the development and certification of competence through occupational qualifications. Assessment often combines internal written or practical assignments with external written or on-screen tests. This category includes graded examinations in music, dance and drama.

- Other Vocational

These are qualifications in vocational subjects that are not Occupational Qualifications or Vocationally-Related Qualifications. Included are qualifications that are work-related but may be relevant across multiple vocations (health and safety, first aid, assessing competence at work), and those often taken by individuals in their spare time to support their hobbies.