



Department of
Education

www.deni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

Oideachais

MÁNYSTRÍE O

Lear



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Subject:

**APPROVAL OF QUALIFICATIONS, AND GUIDANCE ON
THE CLASSIFICATION OF COURSES**

**Circular Number:
2007/23**

**Date of Issue:
18 December 2007**

Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided post-primary schools and special schools with secondary departments;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Further and Higher Education Colleges;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education; and
- Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.
- General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland.
- Education and Skills Authority Implementation Team.

Summary of Contents:

This Circular outlines the new arrangements for updating the list of approved qualifications and classification of courses in line with the requirements of the Entitlement Framework.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

Laverne Bradley
14-19 Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

Governor Awareness:
Essential

Status of Contents:
For information,
and action by schools

Related Documents:
Circular 2005/18
Circular 2006/20
Circular 2006/24
Circular 2007/06
Circular 2007/20

DE Website:
This circular is available on
<http://www.deni.gov.uk>

Tel: 028 9127 9889
Fax: 028 9127 9100

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this circular is to inform schools of the new arrangements for the updating of the list of approved courses and associated qualifications for which schools may enter their pupils as part of their secondary education.

LEGISLATIVE POSITION

2. The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (the 2006 Order) makes provision for the introduction of the revised curriculum and the Entitlement Framework (EF). Target dates and numbers have been set for the implementation of the EF and are outlined in DE Circulars 2005/18 and 2006/20. To assist schools in the planning process the Department is required to issue:

- a) a list of courses appearing to the Department to be wholly or mainly general (academic) courses; and
- b) a list of courses appearing to the Department to be wholly or mainly applied (professional/technical or vocational) courses.

3. Last year this was done in the form of a circular - DE 2006/24. Schools were informed that the list of courses would be updated by the Department on an ongoing basis. As schools considered their curricular offer and made requests to the Department for additional courses to be included on the list, it became apparent that a means of allowing schools more direct and immediate access to the most current list was necessary.

4. To address this issue the Department has made provision for the list of courses to be electronically available as an integral part of the Entitlement Framework Online Audit on the www.efaudit.org. All courses included on the list are listed on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ) and comply with the requirements of the Entitlement Framework in terms of course definition and classification as general or applied (see DE Circulars 2005/18, 2006/20 and 2006/24 for further details).

5. The illustrative list attached at annex 1 provides schools with an example of the details available online at Key Stage 4 and Post-16. To assist schools courses are listed under the Areas of Learning. Schools should note that they are at liberty to offer other courses, whether they are accredited on the NDAQ or not, but these will be classified as enrichment activity and will not count towards the number of courses necessary to meet the requirements of the Entitlement Framework.

6. If a school wishes to offer a course accredited on NDAQ, with the intention that it should contribute to its curriculum offer under the EF, and that course is not listed on the Online Audit list, further guidance on the classification of that course should be sought from the Department. As further classifications are made, the Department will update the courses listed on the Online Audit website, so that all schools can access the most up to date and comprehensive information available.

7. Accredited courses which are not approved by the Department for the purpose of contributing to its curriculum offer under the EF may still be offered by schools as enrichment activity, and the value of this as part of a pupil's overall education is recognised. Examples of enrichment activity under the EF are:

- GCSE short courses, because they do not comply with the minimum number of guided learning hours stated above; and
- non-GCSE awards, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Youth awards and Enterprise schemes, First Aid Schemes, road safety/traffic education schemes, and sports qualifications awarded by national sports associations.

ENQUIRIES

8. Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

Laverne Bradley
14-19 Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Telephone: 028 91279889

LORRAINE FINLAY
14-19 Team

Courses by Area of Learning – Key Stage 4

Annex 1

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ¹	Subject ²	General or Applied
Language and Literacy	GCSE	English	G
		English Language	G
		English Literature	G
		Greek	G
		Irish (in Irish speaking schools only)	G
		Journalism	A
		Latin	G
		Media Studies	G
	VRQ	BTEC First Diploma in Media (Level 2)	A
		BTEC First Certificate in Media (Level 2)	A
		Certificate in Business Language Competence (Level 1 and 2)	A
	Key Skills	Key Skills in Communication Level 1 and 2	A
Mathematics and Numeracy	GCSE	Accounting/Finance	A
		Additional Mathematics	G
		Financial Services	A
		Mathematics	G
		Statistics	G
	Key Skills	Key Skills in Application of Number Level 1 and 2	A
Modern Languages	GCSE	Arabic	G
		Chinese	G
		French	G
		German	G
		Irish	G
		Italian	G

¹ The Qualification Types indicated correspond to the designations used on NDAQ

² Subjects of the types listed are approved for all awarding bodies which have NDAQ accredited qualifications on offer.

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ¹	Subject ²	General or Applied
		Japanese Modern Greek Portuguese Russian Spanish	G G G G G
The Arts	GCSE	Applied Art and Design Art and Design Drama Expressive Arts Fine Art Music Performing Arts Applied Media (Double Award)	A G G G G G A A
	VRQ	BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Art and Design (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Graphic Design (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Photography (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Media (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Music (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Music Technology (Level 2) BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Performing Arts (Level 2)	A A A A A A A
Environment and Society	GCSE	Applied Business Archaeology Business Studies Business and Communication Systems Catering Classical Civilization Economics Environmental Science General Studies Geography	A A A A A G G G G G

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ¹	Subject ²	General or Applied
		Geology Health and Social Care History Home Economics Child Development Hospitality Humanities Law Leisure and Tourism Social and Environmental Studies Social Science Sociology Leisure and Tourism	G A G G G A G G A G G G A
	VRQ	BTEC First Certificate/Diploma in Business (Level 2) First Certificate/Diploma in Business (Level 2) First Diploma in Caring (Level 2) First Certificate/Diploma in Health and Social Care (Level 2) First Certificate/Diploma in Hospitality (Level 2) First Diploma in Travel and Tourism (Level 2) Certificate in Business Enterprise (Level 2) Certificate in Salon Services (Level 1) Certificate in Child Care and Education (Level 2) Foundation Award in Caring for Children (FACC) (Level 1)	A A A A A A A A A A
	Entry Level	Certificate in Retail (Entry 3) Certificate in Food Studies (Entry 1 and 2)	A A
	NVQ	Children's Care, Learning and Development (Level 2) Food Processing and Cooking (Level 1 & 2) Beauty Therapy (Levels 1 & 2) Business and Administration (Level 1 & 2) Customer Service (Level 1)	A A A A A

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ¹	Subject ²	General or Applied
		First Certificate/Diploma for IT and Computing (Levels 1 & 2) BTEC Introductory Certificate for IT (Level 1) Certificate in Digital Application for IT Users (Level 1 & 2) Word Processing (Level 1) National Certificate in Vehicle Maintenance and Repair (Level 2) Introductory Certificate in Basic Construction Skills (Level 1) Diploma in Motor Vehicle Studies (Level 1) Certificate in Motor Vehicle Studies (Level 1) BTEC Certificate/Diploma in Logistics (Level 2)	A A A A A A A A A
	NVQ	Performing Engineering Operations (Level 1 & 2)	A
	Key Skills	Key Skills in ICT (Level 2)	A
Learning for Life and Work	GCSE	Learning for Life and work	A
	General - Level 1/Level 2	Certificate in Occupational Studies ASDAN qualifications National Skills Profile qualifications Certificate in Preparation for Employment First Certificate/Diploma in Public Services (Levels 1 & 2)	A A A A A
	VRQ	Award for Progression (Level 1) Introductory Diploma in Vocational Studies (Level 1)	A
	Entry Level	Certificate in Preparation for Employment (Entry 3) Certificate in Skills for Working Life ASDAN Toward Independence	A A A
Physical Education	GCSE	Physical Education Dance	G A
	VRQ	First Certificate/Diploma in Sport (Level 2) Certificate in Sport and Leisure (Level 1 & 2) Certificate in Teaching Exercise and Fitness (Level 2)	A A A
Religious Education	GCSE	Religious Studies	G

Courses by Area of Learning – Post – 16

Annex 1

Note – The 2006 Order does not specify Areas of Learning for the Post –16 curriculum. However, the areas applicable to Key Stage 4 have been used here for easy reference and to enable schools to identify progression from Key Stage 4.

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ²	Subject ²	General or Applied
Language and Literacy	GCE A Level	Applied Media: Communication and Production	A
		Critical Thinking	G
		Drama	G
		English	G
		English language	G
		English Literature	G
		Film Studies	A
		Greek (Classical)	G
		Irish (in Irish speaking schools only)	G
		Latin	G
		Media Studies	A
		Performing Arts	A
	Vocationally – related Qualification (VRQ) - Diploma	BTEC National Diploma in Media (Level 3)	A
	Key Skills	Key Skills in Communication (Level 3)	A
Mathematics and Numeracy	GCS A Level	Accounting/Finance	A
		Further Mathematics	G
		Mathematics	G
		Pure mathematics	G
		Statistics	G
	Key Skills	Key Skills in Application of Number (Level 3)	A

² The Qualification Types indicated correspond to the designations used on NDAQ.

² Subjects of the types listed are approved for all awarding bodies which have NDAQ accredited qualifications on offer.

Area of Learning	Qualification Type²	Subject ²	General or Applied
Modern Languages	GCE A level	Chinese Dutch French German Greek (Modern) Irish Italian Russian Spanish	G G G G G G G G G
The Arts	GCE A Level	Applied Art and Design Applied Performing Arts Art and Design Dance History of Art and Design Moving Image Arts Music Performing Arts	A A G G G A G A
	VRQ - Diploma	BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design (Level 3) BTEC National Diploma in Graphic Design (Level 3) BTEC National Diploma in Photography (Level 3) BTEC National Diploma in Media (Level 3) BTEC National Diploma in Music (Level 3) BTEC National Diploma in Music Technology (Level3) BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts (Level 3)	A A A A A A A
Environment and Society	GCE A Level	Ancient History Applied Business Applied Health and Social Care Applied Travel and Tourism Archaeology Business Studies	G A A A G G

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ²	Subject ²	General or Applied
		Classical Civilization Economics Geography Geology Government and Politics Health and Social Care History Home Economics Law Leisure Studies Philosophy Sociology Travel and Tourism	G G G A G G G A G G G A
	VRQ – Certificate/Diploma	National Certificate/Diploma in Business Certificate in Business Enterprise (Level 3) National Certificate/Diploma in E Business National Certificate/Diploma in Retail National Certificate/Diploma in Hair & Beauty National Certificate/Diploma in Health and Care National Certificate/Diploma in Hospitality and Catering National Certificate/Diploma in Land Based National Certificate/Diploma in Travel and Tourism	A A A A A A A A A
	VRQ – Award	National Award in Early Years	A
Science and Technology	GCE A Level	Applied Engineering Applied Information and Communication Applied Science Biology Chemistry Computing Design and Technology	A A A G G A A

Area of Learning	Qualification Type ²	Subject ²	General or Applied
		Electronics Engineering Human Biology Information and Communication Technology Information Technology Music Technology Physics Psychology Science	A A G A A A G G G
	VRQ - Diploma	National Diploma in Media National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering National Diploma in Construction National Diploma in Music Technology	A A A A
	VRQ – Certificate	National Certificate in Construction National Certificate in Electrical/ Electronic Engineering National Certificate in Science National Certificate in IT and Computing	A A A A A
	VRQ – Award	National Award in Agriculture National Award in Applied Science National Award in Construction National Award in Engineering	A A A A
	Key Skills	Key Skills in ICT (Level3)	A
Learning for Life and Work	GCE A Level	General Studies	G

Area of Learning	Qualification Type²	Subject ²	General or Applied
	VRQ	Certificate in Personal Effectiveness (COPE) National Award/Certificate in Public Services	A A
Physical Education	GCE A Level	Dance Physical Education	G G
	VRQ - Diploma	National Diploma in Sport	A
	VRQ – Certificate	National Certificate in Sport and Exercise Sciences	A
	VRQ – Award	National Award in Sport	A
Religious Education	GCE A Level	Religious Studies	G