



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Quality Authority

**GUIDE FOR COMPARING THE
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS
LEVELS - 2024**



Guide for Comparing the Qualifications Frameworks Levels

The purpose of this guide is to assist you in drawing broad comparisons (not direct equivalences) between qualifications frameworks levels, which provides an indication of how you can compare qualifications across national boundaries.

Information used in this comparison is based on the Referencing Report of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF) and from the Ireland and UK cross-referenced qualifications frameworks. Further details can be found in the following documents:¹

- [Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries - a Rough Guide to Comparing Qualifications in the UK and Ireland](#)
- [Referencing Report of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework \(SCQF\) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain \(NQF\)](#)

NQF Level 10

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	10
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	12

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	12
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	8
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	8
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	8
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	8
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	10
Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.gaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications	8
Higher education frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	8

¹ Note: All these qualifications frameworks might change from time to time, and you need to check their websites for the latest versions.



NQF Level 9

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	9	9 (with a significant match to 8)
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	11	10

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	11	10
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	7	6
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	7	6
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	7	6
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	7	6
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	9	8
Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.gaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications	7	6
Higher education frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	7	6



NQF Level 8

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	8
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	9

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	9
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	6/5
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	6
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	6
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	6/5
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	7
Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications	6/5
Higher education frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	6



NQF Level 7

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	7
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	8

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	8
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	5
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	5
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	5
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	5
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	6
Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications	5
Higher education frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	5



NQF Level 6

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	6
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	7

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	7
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	3/4
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	5
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	4
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	4
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	5/6
Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications	4
Higher education frameworks for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)	4



NQF Level 5

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	5
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	6

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	6
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	3
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	4
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	3
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	3
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	5



NQF Level 4 - (with some match to level 5)

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	4 (with some matches to level 5)
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	5

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	5
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	2
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	3
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	2
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	2
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	4



NQF Level 3

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	3
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	4

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	4
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	1
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	2
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	1
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	1
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	3



NQF Level 2

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	2
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	3

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	3
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	Entry Level 3
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	1
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	Entry Level 3
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	Entry Level 3
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	2



NQF Level 1 (with some match to level 2)

Correspondence of levels the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of Bahrain (NQF):

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Bahrain National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	1 (with some match to level 2)
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	2

Correspondence of levels established between national qualifications frameworks in the UK and Ireland:

Qualification Framework (QF)	Level
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)	2
Qualifications and Credit Framework/ National Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland www.ofqual.gov.uk , www.ccea.org.uk	Entry Level 2
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/ Northern Ireland (QCF)	Entry Level 2
Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) www.cqfw.net	Entry Level 2
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE) www.nfq.ie	2/1