

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST

This is a list of qualifications for which we have published approval criteria, or are under consideration for approval.



QUALIFICATIONS WALES

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST AND FORWARD LOOK

This document contains the Priority Qualifications List, which is jointly prepared by Qualifications Wales and Welsh Government. It also contains Qualifications Wales' Forward Look.

The Priority Qualifications List is reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to include qualifications for which there are new approval criteria, and/or restrictions imposed (or under consideration for restriction) and to reflect the end of any priority approval periods. Those qualifications whose priority approval period end date has expired will be moved to the unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval periods section of this document.

The Forward Look is also reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales to ensure it continues to give awarding bodies notice of possible future priorities. The Forward Look is published below the Priority Qualifications List but is not part of it.

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST

Qualifications Wales and Welsh Ministers have prepared the Priority Qualifications List in exercise of their powers under section 13 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 (duty to prepare list of priority qualifications).

Qualifications Wales may approve qualifications that have been designed to meet the needs of learners in Wales. The Priority Qualifications List is a list of the qualifications for which Qualifications Wales has published approval criteria, or for which qualifications are under consideration of restriction and in respect of which it must, under section 18 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, consider any applications for approval from appropriately recognised awarding bodies. Qualifications on this list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification.

Qualifications Wales will consider for approval qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria. However the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.

Qualifications Wales may also designate qualifications. Both approved and designated qualifications are provided by recognised awarding bodies and are eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of training and education for learners under the age of 19. Designated qualifications are not necessarily unique to Wales and are usually

available to learners in other countries of the UK. Qualifications Wales will work with recognised bodies in relation to applications for the designation of qualifications not on the Priority Qualifications List.

Qualifications Wales has published the [Priority Qualifications List policy](#), which provides more detail of how the Priority Qualifications List is managed.

Restricted priority qualifications

Qualifications Wales may apply a restriction to limit the number of forms of a qualification that may be approved at any time. This section contains two parts. Part 1 relates to those qualifications where Qualifications Wales has an intention to restrict. Representations in response to the notification to restrict will be considered before any determination to restrict is published. Determinations to restrict are indicated in Part 2.

Part 1 - Intentions to restrict

Part 2 - Determinations to restrict

Qualifications Wales has restricted the following descriptions of qualifications to **one form each**:

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Level 3)

Building Services and Construction

Core in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

Progression in Construction (Level 2)

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating installer

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating craftsperson

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – plumbing and heating

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – electrotechnical installation

Construction (Level 3) – dry lining

Construction (Level 3) – roof slating and tiling

Construction (Level 3) – civil operations – groundworks

Construction (Level 3) – timber frame erection

Construction (Level 3) – bricklaying

Construction (Level 3) – architectural joinery

Construction (Level 3) – site carpentry

Construction (Level 3) – painting and decorating

Construction (Level 3) – solid plastering

Construction (Level 3) – wall and floor tiling

Construction (Level 3) – plant operations
Construction (Level 3) – further plant operations

Health and Social Care, and Childcare

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award)
GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Double Award)¹
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
GCE A level and AS in Health and Social Care, and Childcare
Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
Level 3 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)
Level 3 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management of Children’s
Care, Play, Learning and Development
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children’s Care, Play, Learning and
Development: Practice
Level 4 Health and Social Care: Professional Practice
Level 4 Social Service Practitioner
Level 4 Advocacy
Level 4 Adult Placement/Shared Lives
Level 4 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Professional Practice

Unrestricted qualifications with current priority approval

GCSEs

AS and A levels

Digital Technology

Unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval

The priority approval periods for the following qualifications have expired. These qualifications continue to have current approval criteria and any qualifications submitted against those criteria may be considered for approval.

GCSEs

English
Welsh
English Literature
Welsh Literature
Mathematics
Mathematics Numeracy
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Science (Double Award)
Applied Science (Single Award)
Applied Science (Double Award)
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Music
Science suite
Drama
Physical Education
History
Food and Nutrition
Religious Studies
Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Media Studies
Welsh (Second Language)
Built Environment
Digital Technology

AS and A levels

English
Welsh
English Literature
Welsh Literature
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Welsh (Second Language)
Law
Mathematics
Media Studies
Drama
Music
Physical Education
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Religious Studies
Design and Technology
Further Mathematics
Government and Politics
Built Environment

Level 1/2 Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate

Level 3 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

Suite of Essential Skills Wales qualifications (Entry Level to Level 3)

The qualifications listed on the Priority Qualifications List were jointly agreed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Qualifications Wales and published on **29 April 2021**.

FORWARD LOOK

The Forward Look describes the qualifications that Qualifications Wales is considering for inclusion on the Priority Qualifications List in the future. The Forward Look enables Qualifications Wales to give awarding bodies notice of future priorities and to enable the development of appropriate approval criteria by Qualifications Wales.

The inclusion of qualifications or descriptions of qualifications in the Forward Look is not a guarantee that they will be included in a future Priority Qualifications List. Similarly, a qualification or description of qualification may be included in a future Priority Qualifications List without first appearing on the Forward Look.

The regulation of vocational qualifications is an important element of Qualifications Wales' work. In order to make the regulation of vocational qualifications more manageable and effective, we are adopting a sectoral approach to the review of qualifications. The current sectors being reviewed are:

- Travel, Tourism, Leisure, Hospitality and Catering; and
- Sports and Public Services.

One of the outcomes of these reviews may be the inclusion of qualifications for these sectors on the Priority Qualifications List in the future.

Qualifications Wales is looking at how qualifications taken by 16-year-olds in Wales may need to change to meet the future needs of learners and support the new Curriculum for Wales. This work is likely to lead to some reviewing and reforming of qualifications for 16-year-olds. The specific changes are likely to be agreed in 2021 following public consultation.