

## Comparing Qualifications Across National Boundaries

[http://www.qca.org.uk/libraryAssets/media/qualifications\\_across\\_boundaries\\_1.pdf](http://www.qca.org.uk/libraryAssets/media/qualifications_across_boundaries_1.pdf)

By clicking on the above link you will find a rough guide to the levels and the respective articulations of qualifications in the following countries:

- **England, Wales and Northern Ireland - the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)**
- **Ireland - the National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland**
- **Scotland - the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework**

Although there are variations in the different countries, there are also some marked similarities. If you look at the left hand side, under “Main stages of education/employment”, this provides a good guide to the levels and purposes of the qualifications in each framework. Please also read the introductory text on the leaflet.

Although it is possible to articulate across the three frameworks with the levels and general purposes of each qualification, the size of each will inevitably vary. For example, within the NQF of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, a GCE A Level has the equivalent size to a BTEC National Award, and a BTEC First Diploma has the size equivalent of 4 GCSEs graded A\*-C. The qualification sizes in Ireland and Scotland may not exactly match; hence this is a “rough guide” to comparing qualifications across national boundaries and not an exact science.

In order to assist with interpreting the attached guide, the Edexcel qualifications within the Frameworks for England and Wales are:

### NQF Entry Level

- Edexcel Entry Certificates
- BTEC Entry Certificates in Life Skills
- BTEC Entry Certificates in Skills for Working Life

### NQF Level 1

- Edexcel GCSEs (graded D-G)
- Edexcel NVQs Level 1
- BTEC Introductory Diplomas and Certificates
- Level 1 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### NQF Level 2

- Edexcel GCSEs (graded A\*-C)
- Edexcel NVQs Level 2
- BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates
- Level 2 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 3**

- Edexcel GCE A and AS Levels
- Edexcel NVQs Level 3
- BTEC National Diplomas, Certificates and Awards
- BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)
- Level 3 BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 4**

- Edexcel NVQs Level 4
- Level 4 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 5**

- Edexcel NVQs Level 5
- BTEC Higher National Diplomas and Certificates \*
- BTEC Foundation Degrees \*
- Level 5 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 6**

- Level 6 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 7**

- Level 7 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

### **NQF Level 8**

- Level 8 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards

\* BTEC HNDs and BTEC Foundation Degrees are also at Intermediate Level in the FHEQ