

## N Ireland GCE and GCSE Qualifications Criteria

Audience: Awarding Organisations

Purpose: To detail the criteria to be used by all Awarding Organisations when designing GCSE and GCE qualifications for use in Northern Ireland

Criteria	
<p>1 This criterion reflects the requirements of the CCEA General Conditions of Recognition A.1 to A.8.</p>	<p><b>Recognition of awarding organisations</b></p> <p>An awarding organisation must be recognised to offer GCE and GCSE qualifications in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>2 This criterion reflects the requirements of The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, Article 75.</p>	<p><b>Accreditation process</b></p> <p>All GCE and GCSE qualifications offered in N Ireland must be accredited by CCEA Accreditation. Qualifications which have been accredited by Ofqual and / or the Welsh Government may be accredited for use in N Ireland by CCEA Accreditation. All qualifications accredited for use in N Ireland must meet any subject-specific requirements, as communicated to awarding organisations by CCEA Accreditation.</p>
<p>3 This criterion reflects the requirements of the CCEA General Conditions of Recognition E.1; E.2; E.3.</p>	<p><b>Design of Qualifications</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Purpose</b></p> <p>Awarding organisations must make clear the purpose of the qualification and how this will be met. The purpose should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the opportunity for learners to continue in education or progress to further / higher education</li> <li>• the opportunity for learners to progress to employment</li> <li>• the opportunity for the development of literacy / numeracy and ICT skills, where appropriate</li> <li>• the opportunity to promote independent learning, creative thinking and problem solving skills, where appropriate.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>3.2 Title</b></p> <p>The title of the qualification must be in accordance with the General Conditions of Recognition in relation to titling (E2).</p> <p><b>3.3 Publication of materials</b></p> <p>Awarding organisations must publish a specification and specimen assessment materials for each qualification and make them available to centres prior to the qualification being offered for first teaching. These materials must make clear what learners will be required to do to receive an award in the qualification.</p> <p>They must detail:</p> <p><b>3.4 Content / structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the content to be studied, including any prior learning required and must also include any subject-specific requirements, as communicated to awarding organisations by CCEA Accreditation</li> <li>• the topics / skills and knowledge that must be covered</li> <li>• the performance levels expected from candidates in the assessments</li> <li>• the assessment objectives</li> <li>• a description of how assessment objectives relate to the assessment units</li> <li>• the availability of assessment units</li> <li>• a description of the assessment units including any compulsory and optional components.</li> </ul>
<p>4</p> <p>This criterion reflects the requirements of the CCEA General Conditions of Recognition G.1; G.9.</p>	<p><b>Assessment Design and Delivery</b></p> <p>Awarding organisations must have procedures in place to ensure the quality of the setting and delivery of the assessments for each qualification. Where a qualification offers optional assessment components, there must be procedures in place to ensure these components are comparable for all candidates. These procedures should be reviewed at regular intervals. Where subject-specific requirements exist, as communicated to awarding organisations by CCEA Accreditation, they must be included in any assessments.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Determination and issuing of results</b></p>

<p>This criterion reflects the requirements of the CCEA General Conditions of Recognition H.1; H.2; H.3; H.5; H.6.</p>	<p>Awarding organisations must have procedures in place to ensure that results are determined fairly and accurately, taking into account all admissible evidence generated by the learner.</p> <p>Awarding organisations must issue results for all qualifications that they offer which are clear, accurate and timely. The grading to be applied to the qualification must be detailed in the specification.</p> <p>Awarding organisations must have procedures in place to work with other awarding organisations to review the levels of attainment set for the qualification, to ensure that there will be consistency over time and between similar qualifications.</p>
<p>6 This criterion reflects the requirements of the CCEA General Condition of Recognition D.2</p>	<p><b>Compliance with Northern Ireland Equalities Law</b></p> <p>Any qualifications offered in Northern Ireland must meet all the requirements of NI Equalities law.</p>