

Qualifications and Credit Framework/National Qualifications Framework.		SDL Training Ltd.
Main stages of education & employment.	QCF Level	
Doctorates, Advanced Professional Diplomas	8	Vocational Qualifications Level 8
Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment Masters degrees	7	Fellowships, NVQ Level 5, Vocational Qualifications Level 7
Higher education (Honours degree) Advanced skills training	6	Vocational Qualifications Level 6
Entry to professional graduate employment. Diplomas of higher education, foundation degrees & HND.	5	NVQ Level 4, Higher National Diplomas, (HND), Higher National Certificates (HNC), Vocational Qualifications Level 5
Specialised education and training inc. HND/HNC & Certificate of Higher Education	4	Vocational Qualifications Level 4
Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education	3	NVQ Level 3, Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas
Progression to skilled employment Continuation of secondary education	2	NVQ Level 2, Vocational Qualifications Level 2, GCSEs at grade A*–C, ESOL skills for life, Higher Diplomas, functional skills Level 2 (English, mathematics & ICT)
Secondary education Initial entry into employment or further education	1	NVQ Level 1, Vocational Qualifications Level 1, GCSEs at grade D–G, ESOL skills for life, Foundation Diplomas

		functional skills Level 1 (English, mathematics & ICT)
Qualifications can be taken at any age in order to continue or return to education or training	Entry Level	Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1–3), ESOL SfL, functional skills, Entry Level (English, maths & ICT)