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Know about National Qualifications
Framework (QFEmirates) of UAE



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National
Qualifications
Framework
(*QFEmirates*)
of UAE**

What is National Qualification Framework (QF*Emirates*)?

The National Qualifications Framework for the UAE, called the QF*Emirates*, is a mean of facilitating the design of a coherent classification of qualifications. The QF*Emirates* is designed to be the single structure and reference point through which all qualifications in a country can be compared nationally and internationally. The QF*Emirates* is based on an 'outcomes-based' approach, which means that a qualification is awarded once an individual has completed and been assessed on a specific piece of learning. The QF*Emirates* consists of a number of levels (10 levels from Certificate 1 to Doctorate), related qualifications and titles of qualifications. The Framework covers higher education, school (general) education and technical, vocational and professional education and training. It also recognises learning acquired through work and life experiences, voluntary activities, and other informal and non-formal activities.

What are the key features of the National Qualification Framework (QF*Emirates*)?

The QF*Emirates* sets out to recognise all forms of learning, and specifically to:

- provide a frame of reference, enabling all qualifications to be described and compared
- accommodate all qualifications, including those used in UAE's General Education,

- Vocational (and Professional) Education and Training, and Higher Education sectors, to recognise the achievement in learning from the most elementary task to the most complex
- enable the inclusion of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- define the learning outcomes required for new qualifications
- provide the basis for comparison of UAE qualifications with other national or international qualifications
- establish ways to facilitate and support alignment and integration of the quality of outcomes of education and training with economic and social development.

What is the structure of the National Qualification Framework (QF*Emirates*)?

QF*Emirates* is based on three main features – Number of levels, range of learning outcomes at each level and a qualification structure (classification, titles and profiles). Each level represents the complexity of the qualifications from the most basic (level 1) to the most complex – (level 10 – equivalent to a doctorate). Every qualification, whether developed in the UAE for the UAE, or whether developed overseas, is benchmarked to a level in the QF*Emirates*.

The structure of the QF*Emirates* is shown diagrammatically below. Each qualification at a given level has a generic name which means that it is immediately obvious what the level of complexity is of that qualification, regardless of where it was taken.

Principal Qualification Titles of the QFEmirates

LEVEL	Generic Nomenclature	Principal Qualification titles used in the QFEmirates			Lifelong learning
		Vocational Education and Training (VET)	Higher Education (HE)	General Education (G 12 - GE)	
10	Doctoral Degree	—	Doctoral	—	Recognition of prior learning (RPL)
9	Master Degree	Applied Master	Master	—	
8	Graduate Diploma	Applied Graduate Diploma	Postgraduate Diploma	—	
7	Bachelor Degree	Applied Bachelor	Bachelor	—	
6	Diploma*	Advanced Diploma	Higher Diploma	—	
5	Diploma* / Associate Degree	Diploma	Associate Degree	—	
4	Certificate*	Certificate 4	—	Secondary School Certificate (G 12)	
3	Certificate*	Certificate 3	—	TBA	
2	Certificate*	Certificate 2	—	—	
1	Certificate*	Certificate 1	—	—	
Authority to determine qualification requirements		Vocational Education and Training Awards Commission (VETAC)	Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA)	General Education Commission (GEC), Ministry of Education (MOE)	

Who has the authority to determine and issue TVET qualifications?

The National Qualifications Authority (NQA) has overall responsibility to set policy, manage and assure the quality and integrity of the qualifications system implemented under its auspices. The Vocational Education and Training Awards Council (VETAC) is the operational body of the National Qualification Authority (NQA) which manages and coordinates UAE's technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and assures the quality of TVET outcomes. VETAC's role involves setting and maintaining standards for the development, administration, registration, endorsement and delivery of national vocational qualifications and awards developed by or on behalf of industry.

Which Types of TVET Qualifications are accredited by VETAC and NQA?

The National Qualification Framework for the United Arab Emirates (QF*Emirates*) recognises three qualification types, based primarily on the volume of learning required and the coverage of learning outcomes at any given level:

Principal Qualifications: The major qualification type with formal recognition at each level of QF*Emirates* that captures the typical achievements for the level, including all five strands of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and aspects of competence) provide formal recognition at a given level for learners achieving cohesive learning outcomes covering all strands of knowledge, skills and understanding and aspects of competency. Examples include, at Level 4, Certificate 4 in Business and at Level 7, Applied Bachelor degree.

Composite Awards: An award for formal recognition of learners who achieve a cohesive set of learning outcomes encompassing, in varying combinations, all five strands of learning outcomes, but not the full combination of learning outcomes required for a Principal Qualification.

Component Awards: The smallest parcel of cohesive learning outcomes that can be achieved by learners for formal recognition purposes within the Framework. It may relate to all or only some of the five strands of learning outcomes defining the level.

Awards constitute part of a Principal qualification.

What are level descriptors?

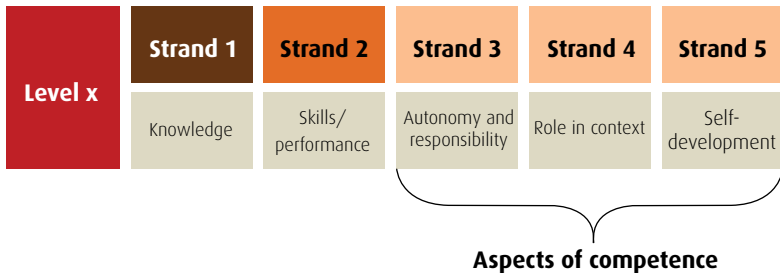
Level Descriptors are sets of learning outcomes statements that define levels in a framework of qualifications. This grid sets out descriptor statements for a framework of ten (10) levels for the UAE. The statements are set out in five 'strands', building to a grid of fifty [50] statements. The five strands comprise one each describing knowledge and skill and three describing aspects of competence (autonomy and responsibility, role in context, and self-development). These Level Descriptors form the foundation for the QF*Emirates*.

What are learning outcomes?

Learning outcomes define the learning that an individual has to do to achieve a particular qualification. Learning outcomes are expressed in terms of 5 strands - knowledge, skills and aspects of competence (autonomy and responsibility, role in context and self-development). The relative proportion of these in a specific qualification will determine whether it is academic or more practical in nature. For example, a qualification that primarily includes knowledge will be academic, whereas a qualification that requires the individual to show what they can do at work will be practical, or vocational. The qualification is achieved when the learning is complete and is assessed successfully.

What are the 5 Strands of Learning Outcomes?

These five [5] strands of learning outcomes reflect what is expected to be achieved at the respective level, for each qualification.



What is an assessment criteria?

Assessment criteria define the requirement the learner has to demonstrate to show that they have achieved the learning specified in the learning outcome. Typically for each learning outcomes, there will be two or three assessment criteria. A qualification cannot be awarded until the learner has demonstrated they can achieve all the assessment criteria. They do not specify whether a person has to take an exam or not; that is up to the organisation which is responsible for issuing the qualification to decide.

What is a credit?

Credit is the currency or exchange rate of qualifications. It defines the amount of time a typical learner will take to complete a qualification or a unit of a qualification successfully. It does not define the teaching time, but incorporates teaching, private learning and study by the learner and assessment time. For TVET qualifications, it also includes practical work. In the QFEmirates, one (1) credit approximates to 15 hours of learning

How to get more information about National Qualifications Framework (QF*Emirates*) in Dubai?

For more information, please contact Qualification and Awards in Dubai (QAD) at:

Tel: +971 4 364 0000 or 800 KHDA (5432);

Email: qualificationsandawards@KHDA.gov.ae

Website: www.KHDA.gov.ae

For greater level of detail about QF*Emirates* Handbook, please click on the link: <http://www.nqa.gov.ae/En/MediaCenter/Pages/Publication.aspx>