



Group Award Specification for:

SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems

Group Award code — GV2P 47

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements Document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver, and manage the qualification
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
- ◆ inform course managers, teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers, and Higher Education institutions of the aims and purpose of the qualification
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners that the qualification is suitable for and the progression opportunities

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is designed to provide the learner with the necessary background in the major aspects of production in the commercial poultry sector in the UK. The title for the qualification is accordingly written to reflect this. Learners will not only cover aspects of poultry biology, but also the common housing systems and production methods that produce poultry meat and eggs.

Successful completion of this SQA Advanced Certificate would give learners skills and knowledge in poultry biology and methods of production by using a range of dynamic learning methods and assessment, designed to reflect authentic practice in the field. Learners could progress to a BSc in animal science or seek employment (or further employment) in the poultry sector, such as a poultry unit manager, feed mill manager, hatchery manager, or poultry research technician. The programme would also be suitable for someone who wanted to gain more knowledge to effectively manage their own non-commercial backyard flock of poultry. The SQA Advanced Certificate will also develop the learners' academic skills in critical thinking and searching for relevant information.

The qualification is aimed at a range of learners, including school leavers and adult returners with a particular interest in poultry production. The award may also be suitable for those who are employed or self-employed in the sector or a related discipline.

2 Qualification structure

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is made up of 12 SQA unit credits. It comprises 96 Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) credit points, all of which are at SCQF level 7. All the unit credits are from mandatory units, of which six units are 8 SCQF credit points and three units are 16 SCQF credit points. A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in section 5.3.

2.1 Structure

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is awarded to learners that achieve 12 SQA credits at SCQF level 7 over nine units. This is a combination of six units of 8 SCQF credit points (including one graded unit) and three units of 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7, totalling 96 SCQF credit points.

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J7HR	47	Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	1	8	7
J7HS	47	Poultry Physiology and Health	2	16	7
J7HT	47	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	2	16	7
HP6L	47	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1	8	7
J7HV	47	Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	1	8	7
J7HW	47	Poultry Buildings and Environment	2	16	7
J1E4	47	Business Management: An Introduction	1	8	7
J7HX	47	Poultry Embryology and Incubation	1	8	7
J7HY	47	Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7

All units are mandatory to achieve the award.

3 Aims of the qualification

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is designed to develop knowledge and skills required to work in a range of roles within the poultry industry.

The focus of the qualification is on fundamental understanding of avian biology (anatomy, health, behaviour and welfare, nutrition and feed, embryology and incubation) but also on the commercial systems and infrastructure that influence commercial poultry production (such as egg and meat production systems, poultry buildings and environment, and business management). The qualification also incorporates Core Skills in basic computing (information technology).

3.1 General aims of the qualification

As learners undertake the SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems, they will develop the following broad knowledge and skills:

1. Explain major aspects of poultry biology, production, and business principles.
2. Apply scientific knowledge and skills to identify and solve routine problems.
3. Explore and assess new and emerging issues.
4. Relate individual poultry science topics to the whole-animal system.
5. Contribute to team-working to enable the poultry industry to remain resilient in the face of change.
6. Use information technology to record and interpret information, as well as to convey scientific material related to industry-specific issues to colleagues, clients, and the general public.
7. Show an empathetic, practical and adaptable approach to working with animals.
8. Enable progression both within and outside of the SCQF.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

To be deemed as competent in Poultry Production Systems, learners must attain the following specific knowledge and skills:

9. Develop an understanding of the major behaviour patterns of domestic poultry and how behaviour and commercial production methods contribute to poultry welfare.
10. Understand poultry anatomy and physiology, and their relation to poultry health including abnormal function, disease and prevention, and novel approaches to maintaining healthy birds.
11. Explain global poultry markets, how birds are managed during production periods and how their performance is assessed.
12. Operate a range of information technology equipment and software to deal with complex information.
13. Demonstrate competence in poultry diet requirements and composition, including information on what factors influence quality and nutritional value, with the ability to formulate simple poultry diets.

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14. Recognise poultry building design and equipment used within buildings to control poultry environments, including waste control systems and their impact on pollution and the environment.
15. Understand the main functions of management, including requirements to manage business finances, human resources, and marketing.
16. Explain chick embryology and how chicks are incubated in a commercial hatchery, plus novel hatching technologies and how chicks are transported to farms.

3.3 Graded unit

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems includes a graded unit that integrates the aims of the qualification by drawing together the outcomes of seven out of nine compulsory units. This unit is based on a project-based case study, which incorporates a complex task where the learner works with variables that are complex or unfamiliar, relationships that need to be clarified, and an unfamiliar context. Learners will analyse a task and decide on a course of action, plan and organise work and carry it through to completion, reflect on what has been done, draw conclusions, and produce evidence of meeting the aims for the graded unit.

The case study format is appropriate to this group award as it reflects an authentic scenario that learners are likely to come across in the poultry industry.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience, or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge, and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ three National 5s at grade A–C in English, Maths and Science; and
- ◆ two Highers at grade C, preferably at least one of these in a science subject; or
- ◆ relevant National Certificate at SCQF level 5 or 6 in an animal care or animal science topic

Work experience at a poultry production facility or with back yard poultry would be beneficial.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information would be used to identify whether additional learning support needs should be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level, or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	SCQF level 5	Reports; extended response questions; presentations, oral communication, written reports, reading reports
Numeracy	SCQF level 5	Data interpretation and analysis, calculating feed intake and food conversion
Information and communication technology (ICT)	SCQF level 5	Collecting, collating and presenting evidence/data, presentations, reports
Problem solving	SCQF level 4	Practical activities in simulated environments/project report and evaluation
Working with others	SCQF level 4	Peer review, producing outcomes to be used by farmers

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop more generic skills, known as Core Skills, through this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

The aims are set out in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

General aims

Code	Unit title	Aim 1	Aim 2	Aim 3	Aim 4	Aim 5	Aim 6	Aim 7	Aim 8
J7HR 47	Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
J7HT 47	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	X	X		X		X	X	X
HP6L 47	Information Technology: Applications Software 1		X				X		X
J7HV 47	Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
J7HW 47	Poultry Buildings and Environment			X			X	X	X
J1E4 47	Business Management: An Introduction	X					X		X
J7HX 47	Poultry Embryology and Incubation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J7HY 47	Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

Specific aims

Code	Unit title	Aim 9	Aim 10	Aim 11	Aim 12	Aim 13	Aim 14	Aim 15	Aim 16
J7HR 47	Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	X							
J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health		X						
J7HT 47	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems			X					
HP6L 47	Information Technology: Applications Software 1				X				
J7HV 47	Poultry Nutrition and Feed Poultry Formulation					X			
J7HW 47	Poultry Buildings and Environment						X		
J1E4 47	Business Management: An Introduction							X	
J7HX 47	Poultry Embryology and Incubation								X
J7HY 47	Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade standards

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
J7HR 47	Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	X			X				X									X
J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health	X			X	X					X	X						X
J7HT 47	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	X							X	X	X		X	X			X	X
HP6L 47	Information Technology: Applications Software 1									X	X							
J7HV 47	Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation								X	X								
J7HW 47	Poultry Buildings and Environment			X	X	X	X	X	X									
J1E4 47	Business Management: An Introduction		X							X								
J7HX 47	Poultry Embryology and Incubation										X				X	X		

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*NOS Key — from SVQ in Poultry Production (SCQF level 6 except where indicated)

NOS number	Unit title
1	Plan and Manage the Health and Welfare of Livestock
2	Communicate in a Business Environment
3	Maintain and Repair Structures
4	Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security
5	Implement and Monitor Site Hygiene and Bio-Security
6	Monitor and Maintain Mechanically Controlled Systems Used in Livestock Production
7	Prepare, Monitor and Maintain Mechanically Controlled Livestock Production Environments
8	Provide, Monitor and Maintain the Supply of Feed and Water to Livestock
9	Numeracy (Workplace Core Skill) SCQF level 5
10	Information and Communication Technology (Workplace Core Skill) SCQF level 5
11	Deliver Basic Treatments to Livestock
12	Monitor and Maintain Egg Production
13	Monitor and Maintain the Collection and Grading of Eggs
14	Monitor and Maintain the Receipt and Selection of Eggs for Incubation and Hatching
15	Monitor and Maintain the Incubation of Eggs
16	Monitor and Maintain the Brooding and Growth of Young Birds
17	Introduce New Animals to a Holding

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification

E = embedded (embedded within the unit — learners who achieve the unit will automatically have their Core Skills profile updated on their certificate)

S = signposted (learners will be developing aspects of Core Skills through teaching and learning approaches but there is no automatic certification)

X = not present

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem solving			Working with others	
		Written (reading)	Written (writing)	Oral	Using number	Using graphical information	Accessing information	Providing/creating information	Critical thinking	Planning and organising	Reviewing and evaluating	Working co-operatively with others	Reviewing co-operative contribution
J7HR 47	Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	S	S	X	X	X	S	X	S	S	S	S	S
J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health	S	S	X	X	S	S	X	S	S	S	X	S
J7HT 47	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	S	S	S	X	S	S	X	X	S	X	X	X
HP6L 47	Information Technology: Applications Software 1*	S	X	X	X	S	S	S	X	S	X	X	X
J7HV 47	Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	S	X	X	S	S	S	S	X	S	X	X	X
J7HW 47	Poultry Buildings and Environment	S	S	X	S	S	S	S	S	S	X	X	X
J1E4 47	Business Management: An Introduction	S	S	X	S	X	S	X	S	S	S	X	X
J7HX 47	Poultry Embryology and Incubation	S	S	X	X	S	S	S	X	S	S	S	X
J7HY 47	Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	S	S	X	X	X	S	S	S	S	S	S	X

*Automatic certification of Core Skill 'Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT)' at Higher level

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

The following assessment strategy is one option that could be followed, showing method, conditions and the length of time for assessment. This would be likely to differ between delivery centres.

This example shows an indicative timescale in a distance learning (DL) context, but will differ depending on the mode of delivery taken up by individual delivery centres.

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	Method: identify behaviours Conditions: open or closed-book Length of time: 2 hours, plus one week to peer assess if used	Method: report on welfare of birds in a scenario and advice Conditions: open or closed-book Length of time: 8 weeks	Combined with outcome 2	
Poultry Physiology and Health	Method: identify and explain organs and anatomy Conditions: open or closed-book Length of time: 2 hours	Method: case study scenario Conditions: open-book Length of time: 15 weeks	Combined with outcome 2	Method: summary of review paper and peer review Conditions: open-book Length of time: 8 weeks
Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	Method: PowerPoint presentation Conditions: open-book Length of time: 8 weeks *Can possibly be combined with Business Management: An Introduction, outcomes 1, 3 and 4	Method: Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) Conditions: open or closed-book Length of time: 2 hours	Combined with outcome 2	Method: case study* Conditions: open-book Length of time: 8 weeks
Business Management: An Introduction	Method: project-based report* Conditions: open-book Length of time: 9 weeks *Can possibly be combined with Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems, outcome 1	Method: short answer questions Conditions: open-book Length of time: 6 weeks	Combined with outcome 1	Combined with outcome 1

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Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Information Technology: Applications Software 1	Method: short response in three tasks Conditions: open-book Length of time: 4 weeks	Method: short response in three tasks Conditions: open-book Length of time: 5 weeks		
Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	Method: MCQs or short answer questions Conditions: open or closed-book Length of time: 2 hours	Combined with outcome 1	Method: use feed-formulation software Conditions: open-book Length of time: 8 weeks	
Poultry Buildings and Environment	Method: project (design poultry building) Conditions: open-book Length of time: 15 weeks	Method: report or poster Conditions: open-book Length of time: 15 weeks	Combined with outcome 1	
Poultry Embryology and Incubation	Method: problem-solving task Conditions: open-book Length of time: 15 weeks	Combined with outcome 1	Combined with outcome 1	
Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	Method: case study (planning) Conditions: open-book Length of time: 8 weeks	Method: case study (developing) Conditions: open-book Length of time: 15 weeks	Method: case study (evaluating) Conditions: open-book Length of time: 7 weeks	

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is a programme that develops essential skills that learners will need to work effectively in the poultry industry at an entry or lower-management level. Where many people who undertake this award may already work in industry, this programme will broaden their knowledge so that they have good understanding and knowledge of poultry biology and how poultry are managed in commercial settings. Although the emphasis may be on the most common poultry (chickens), it can include the other farmed poultry species as well. The aim of the award is to produce individuals who can be employable in all aspects of poultry production.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

Sequence of delivery of the units could be delivered in the following manner. This example shows how it could be delivered on a part-time basis (that is, over two years), where two teaching blocks per year are used; this would be modified accordingly for a full-time, one-year course.

Year 1

Block 1	Block 2
Poultry Physiology and Health	Poultry Physiology and Health
Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems	Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems
Business Management: An Introduction	Information Technology: Applications Software 1

Year 2

Block 1	Block 2
Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	Poultry Embryology and Incubation
Poultry Behaviour and Welfare	
Poultry Buildings and Environment	Poultry Buildings and Environment
Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1	Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1

Assessments could be given in the following way, to allow a distribution of assessments over the academic year.

In some units, it may be possible to combine assessments (such as integrating a Business Management assessment with Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems assessment), but this is optional.

B = block

W = week

O = outcome

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Unit title, year and block	B1– W1	B1– W2	B1– W3	B1– W4	B1– W5	B1– W6	B1– W7	B1– W8	B1– W9	B1– W10	B1– W11	B1– W12	B1– W13	B1– W14	B1– W15
Poultry Physiology and Health Year 1; Block 1 and 2						O1									
Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems Year 1; Block 1 and 2								O1						O2 & O3	
Business Management: An Introduction Year 1; Block 1									O1, O3 & O4			O2			
Information Technology: Applications Software 1 Year 1; Block 2															
Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation Year 2; Block 1								O1 & O2						O3	
Poultry Behaviour and Welfare Year 2; Block 1						O1						O2 & O3			
Poultry Embryology and Incubation Year 2; Block 2															
Poultry Buildings and Environment Year 2; Block 1 and 2															O1 & O3
Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1 Year 2; Block 1 and 2								O1							

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Unit title, year and block	B2– W1	B2– W2	B2– W3	B2– W4	B2– W5	B2– W6	B2– W7	B2– W8	B2– W9	B2– W10	B2– W11	B2– W12	B2– W13	B2– W14	B2– W15
Poultry Physiology and Health Year 1; Block 1 and 2			O2 & O3									O4			
Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems Year 1; Block 1 and 2								O4							
Business Management: An Introduction Year 1; Block 1															
Information Technology: Applications Software 1 Year 1; Block 2		O1		O1		O1	O2		O2						
Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation Year 2; Block 1															
Poultry Behaviour and Welfare Year 2; Block 1															
Poultry Embryology and Incubation Year 2; Block 2														O1, O2 & O3	
Poultry Buildings and Environment Year 2; Block 1 and 2													O2		
Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1 Year 2; Block 1 and 2								O2							O3

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal, and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may not be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ◆ SQA Advanced graded units
- ◆ course and/or external assessments
- ◆ other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ where there is an existing requirement for a license to practice
- ◆ where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ where there are regulatory, professional, or other statutory requirements
- ◆ where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

More information and guidance on the recognition of prior learning may be found on our website: www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

It may be possible to enter Year 2 of a relevant BSc degree; however, additional units or recognition of prior learning or experience may be required to satisfy the requirements of a Year 2 entry (to bring the overall credits from 96 to 120). Any application for advanced entry should be discussed with the institution that the learner is planning to apply to.

6.2.2 Credit transfer arrangements

Credit transfer is a decision for centres and can be given where there is broad equivalence between the subject-related content of the units, that is, the knowledge and/or skills are covered in the unit for which credit is being awarded. Centres should give some consideration to currency of achievement when awarding credit transfer.

This group award is based on GN25 47, but updated to reflect newer poultry and learning practices. Credit transfer will be permitted as shown in the following table, which lists old and proposed units, and how units articulate with each other. Where two units have been combined and a longer, or larger, unit is proposed, then learners should have completed both old units to be awarded credit transfer. Note that two required units will not change with this award*.

Old unit codes and titles		Proposed units	
J6MT 47	Avian Physiology	J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health
HW9V 47	Poultry Health	J7HS 47	Poultry Physiology and Health

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Old unit codes and titles	Proposed units
HW9N 47 Poultry Egg Production Systems	J7HT 47 Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems
HW9P 47 Poultry Meat Production Systems	J7HT 47 Poultry Egg and Meat Production Systems
HP6L 47 Information Technology: Applications Software 1*	HP6L 47 Information Technology: Applications Software 1*
HW9M 47 Incubation of Hatching Eggs	J7HX 47 Poultry Embryology and Incubation
HW9R 47 Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation	J7HV 47 Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation
J1E4 47 Business Management: An Introduction*	J1E4 47 Business Management: An Introduction*
HW9T 47 Poultry Welfare and Behaviour	J7HR 47 Poultry Behaviour and Welfare
HW9K 47 Poultry Buildings and Mechanisation	J7HW 47 Poultry Buildings and Environment
HW9J 47 Pollution and Waste	J7HW 47 Poultry Buildings and Environment
HW9W 47 Graded Unit	J7HY 47 Poultry Production Systems: Graded Unit 1

*unchanged units

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

All or part of this programme can be delivered by e-learning and/or e-assessment. To support this, there should be a suitable learning platform in place that supports the use of voice-over lectures, live interactive sessions, use of video footage, interactive quizzes that can be used independently or embedded in lecture material, and e-access to a range of resources (such as the library). Care should be taken by the programme delivery team to engage learners so that they feel part of both a learner culture (for example, by encouraging 'student cafes' through the online platform) and an instructor-learner relationship (for example, by holding live tutorials or discussion sessions, by using discussion boards to generate conversations).

E-assessment can be undertaken by using timed quizzes in a virtual learning environment, by online submission of reports, case studies, essays to the lecturer for marking, by online presentations using a suitable platform.

6.4 Resource requirements

In order to be delivered effectively, programme staff must have access to poultry either at their own facility or through access to smallholdings or commercial farms, so that they can demonstrate (live if delivered onsite, or via video footage if delivered by distance) what poultry behaviour, housing, buildings, and so on look like.

Teaching staff should have a relevant qualification in the field of animal science. It would benefit the programme if teaching staff had previous experience of commercial poultry production, either by having worked in commercial industry, or working with the commercial sector in a research or consultancy capacity.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within these group awards should be internally verified using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: The assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ Candidates may not be entered for the group award.
- ◆ The group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS).

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ The group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue.
- ◆ The group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date, at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived.
- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the group award.
- ◆ Centres should only enter candidates whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period.

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching, and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF, visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one SQA Advanced unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. SQA Advanced Certificates and SQA Advanced Diplomas are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8, respectively. SQA Advanced units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: These contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: These refer to opportunities to develop Core Skills in learning and teaching, but are not automatically certificated.

9 History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA Connect to confirm that they are using the most up-to-date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter candidates for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version number	Description	Date

Acknowledgements

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland’s colleges have made to the development of SQA Advanced Qualifications.

Further information

Call SQA’s Customer Contact Centre on 44 (0) 141 500 5030 or 0345 279 1000. Alternatively, complete our [Centre Feedback Form](#).

10 General information for learners

This section will help you to decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining: what the qualification is about; what you should know or what you should be able to do before you start; what you will need to do during the qualification; and opportunities for further learning and employment.

The group award SQA Advanced Certificate in Poultry Production Systems is designed to develop your knowledge and skills in poultry production, such that you can work in a variety of roles within the poultry industry, such as a poultry farm manager, hatchery manager, or feed mill manager. Primarily, the programme focuses on various aspects of poultry biology and production methods, while including essential information and communication technology (ICT) skills training, information on poultry buildings and environment, and business management.

The programme is made up of nine mandatory units (there are no optional units) of various credit points, depending on the length of their delivery (for example, over a single teaching block or over two teaching blocks). Each unit is assessed using a variety of methods such as quizzes, presentations, and written work, based on realistic scenarios that you might encounter in the workplace.

In the final phase of the award, you will undertake a longer project-based, case study assignment to demonstrate your ability to collate your prior learning into a single, more complex task (the graded unit).

Learners who wish to progress to another SQA Advanced Diploma or degree programme may be required to undertake further units to meet the credit level entry requirements for that programme. This should be discussed with the institution that you are applying to.

In all phases of the programme, you will be supported by a knowledgeable team of lecturers and instructors. These staff should work synergistically to ensure that your workload is spread out evenly across the academic teaching blocks. Delivery and assessment may be undertaken face-to-face or by e-learning.

During the programme, you will develop Core Skills in Communication (Reading, Writing, Oral), Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Problem Solving.