



Insight Tariff Note

Insight is an online tool for benchmarking the senior phase. It is a professional tool available to secondary schools and local authorities to allow them to look at specific cohorts of learners and identify areas of success and where improvements can be made. The tariff scale is built upon 6 tariff principles which can be found in [Appendix A](#). To better meet the tariff principles, three different methodologies use this tariff. These are described in [Deep Dive 3- Guide to Insight Tariff](#).

Role of the Tariff Scale

The Insight Tariff Scale places a notional point value to attainment so that schools and local authorities can compare attainment between the virtual comparator, schools, local authorities or other breakdowns of cohorts in the senior phase. This feature is useful for benchmarking purposes because it can help prompt questions about particular aspects of cohort performance. These questions can then be investigated further using the rich and rounded information available within the tool and beyond.

The tariff points accrued by particular schools, local authorities and cohorts should not be viewed as the only way of measuring performance and should be considered in the context of the other outcome measures included in the tool, for example, breadth and depth, improving post-school participation and raising attainment in literacy and numeracy as well as other data sources. In addition, the tariff scale should not be viewed as a reflection on the value of the qualifications to individual learners, nor should it be used to inform decisions about the particular courses that individual learners pursue. Tariff measures are designed to evaluate the average performance of cohorts, not individuals.

The Insight tariff is used in the following measures:

Improving Attainment for All – National and Local Measures

Attainment v Deprivation – National and Local Measures

Curricular Areas – All Curricular Areas and Single Curricular Area

The Insight Tariff also drives the following options/filters:

Pupil Points


Example Tariff Points for SQA National Courses:

The majority of awards attained by learners in Scotland are SQA National Courses and units. A summary of the Insight Tariff points for these awards is given below as a quick reference guide.

SCQF Level	Grade	SCQF Credit Points	Tariff Score
7	A	32	480
	B	32	440
	C	32	400
	D	32	380
	Individual units	Varies	17/2*SCQF Credit Points
6	A	24	204
	B	24	182
	C	24	160
	D	24	149
	Individual units	Varies	14/3*SCQF Credit Points
5	A	24	84
	B	24	74
	C	24	64
	D	24	59
	Individual units	Varies	11/6*SCQF Credit Points
4	Course – Pass	24	33
	Added value unit	6	15
	Individual units	Varies	1*SCQF Credit Points
3	Total units	18	12
	Individual units	Varies	2/3*SCQF Credit Points
2	Total units	18	6
	Individual units	Varies	1/3*SCQF Credit Points
1	Individual units	6	1

Please note:

No gap – the total units at a given SCQF level are worth the same as an A (or N4 course award) at the level below. This recognises the high value of the overall course assessment – integration, challenge and application of learning – compared to achieving units alone. To achieve ‘no gap’, a level multiplier is used when calculating points for different award levels.



Insight Tariff Calculation

Awards which are included in Insight are awarded Tariff points based on the following criteria:

Volume of Attainment: The volume of attainment given by an award is provided by the number of SCQF Credit Points attributed to it. This ensures that a greater breadth of learning attracts more Insight Tariff points. SCQF Credit Points for an award can be found using the [SCQF Database](#) or is often included in the award descriptor provided by the awarding body.

Level of Attainment: The level of attainment given by an award is provided by the SCQF Level attributed to it. This ensures that a greater depth of learning attracts more Insight Tariff points that equivalent attainment at a lower level. The SCQF Level for an award can be found using the [SCQF Database](#) or is often included in the award descriptor provided by the awarding body.

Course Added Value: Awards which demonstrate an added value to learning over and above the components of the award will attract additional Insight Tariff points. This ensures that, for example, a course with an end point assessment attracts more tariff points than a course comprised of units only. A list of courses given added value is given in [Reference Table 2](#).

Grade/Result Value: Awards which differentiate attainment by grading will have different Insight Tariff points attributed to the various grades. This is to ensure that a better grade attracts more Insight Tariff points than a lower grade. Graded National Courses and Open University Young Applicants in Schools Scotland (YASS) attract this add-on. Where no grading exists, no grade value is added. [Reference tables 4 and 5](#) provide details of this.

Please note:

'Best' Attainment – Measures based on tariff points will be based on 'best' achievements in each subject. This means that all subjects studied by the learner in the senior phase will be included but upper level qualifications and better grades will receive more points. The purpose of basing a learner's tariff points on 'best' qualifications in a subject is to ensure that there is no incentive or dis-incentive to go through every level. For example, someone undertaking a National 5 in Maths and then a Higher in Maths will receive the same points as someone who has only taken the Higher Maths (assuming they receive the same grade at Higher).

**Insight Tariff Calculation for each award**

The tariff score for a unit or course award is calculated in 2 stages:

Stage 1: Basic Tariff Point Allocation

$$= \text{SCQF Credit Points} * \text{SCQF Level Multiplier}$$

Volume of attainment See [Reference Table 1](#)

Stage 2: Course/Grade Point Add-on

$$= (\text{Course Weight} + \text{Result Weight}) * \text{SCQF Credit Points/NCC}$$

[Reference Table 3](#) [Reference Table 4/5](#) [Reference Table 6](#)

Example Award Calculation

Suppose a school leaver attained the following in the senior phase:

- National 5 in English (A), Maths(C), French (A), Biology (C), German (B)
- Highers in English (A) and French (B)
- Higher unit in Spanish – Using Language (not completed the course).
- NPA Level 6 Laboratory Science
- Youth Scotland Youth Achievement Award at level 5.

Example 1 – Graded Course Award

Using French as an example, the ‘best’ award is a Higher Grade B. The SQA Course descriptor for this course tells us that it has 24 SCQF Credit Points at SCQF Level 6. This course has a graded element and a course weight ([Reference Tables 3 and 4](#)).

Stage 1 - Basic Tariff Allocation = 24 SCQF Credit Points * 14/3 (Level 6 Multiplier) = 112

Stage 2 - Course/Grade Add-on = (48 + 22) * 24/24 = 70

Total Insight Tariff Points = 112 + 70 = **182**

Example 2 – Ungraded Course Award with Course Weight

Using NPA Laboratory Science as an example, the SQA Course descriptor for this course tells us that it has 48 SCQF Credit Points at Level 6. No ‘best’ consideration is made as there is no articulation with any other attainment. NPA awards have no graded element but are allocated a course weight ([Reference Tables 2 and 3](#)).

Stage 1 - Basic Tariff Allocation = 48 * 14/3 = 224

Stage 2 - Course/Grade Add-on = (48 + 0) * 48/24 = 96

Total Insight Tariff Points = 224 + 96 = **320**

**Example 3 – Ungraded Course Award**

Using Youth Scotland Youth Achievement Award as an example, the SCQF database tells us that it has 11 SCQF Credit Points at Level 5. No 'best' consideration is made as there is no articulation with any other attainment. This course is not graded and does not have a course weight.

Stage 1 - Basic Tariff Allocation = $11 * 11/6 = 20.17$

Stage 2 - Course/Grade Add-on = $(0 + 0) * 11/24 = 0$

Total Insight Tariff Points = $20.17 + 0 = \mathbf{20.17}$

Example 4 – Unit Award

Using Spanish - Using Language as an example, the SQA unit descriptor for this course tells us that it has 6 SCQF Credit Points at Level 6. No 'best' consideration is made as there is no articulation with any other attainment. Units are not graded and do not have a course weight.

Stage 1 - Basic Tariff Allocation = $6 * 14/3 = 28$

Stage 2 - Course/Grade Add-on = $(0 + 0) * 11/24 = 0$

Total Insight Tariff Points = $28 + 0 = \mathbf{28}$



Tariff Methodologies

Insight measures based on tariff points will be built up using the 3 methodologies; total tariff points, complementary tariff points or grade neutral tariff points. Each of these methodologies are based on 'best', but differ in the volume of learning which is counted or the inclusion or not of the graded add on.

- **Average Total Tariff**

This is the default tariff methodology in all versions of 'Improving Attainment for All' and 'Attainment v Deprivation'.

For each learner, the total tariff for all of their 'best' attainment is calculated. Then, for the cohort in question, an average is taken of the total for each learner.

Further Details in [Deep Dive 3- Guide to Insight Tariff](#)

- **Average Complementary Tariff**

Complimentary Tariff can be selected in all versions of 'Improving Attainment for All' and 'Attainment v Deprivation' using the 'Change Options' button then selecting 'Complimentary Tariff Points' under the 'Basis' option.

For each learner only the densest 120 SCQF Credit Points worth of 'best' attainment is considered. Generally speaking, the greater the SCQF level of an award, the greater the density of learning. Then, for the cohort in question, an average is taken of the complimentary total for each learner.

This methodology was developed to allow comparisons between cohorts undertaking different numbers of qualifications.

Further Details in [Deep Dive 3- Guide to Insight Tariff](#)

- **Average Grade Neutral Tariff**

Grade Neutral Tariff can be selected in all versions of 'Improving Attainment for All' and 'Attainment v Deprivation'. It is used in conjunction with the 2 previous tariff methodologies to give either; Total Grade Neutral Tariff or Complimentary Grade Neutral Tariff.

For each learner, a total or complimentary total is calculated without any grade add-on applied to graded courses. For example, Higher French at Grade B will get the 112 tariff points from the basic allocation, 48 points for the course weight component but NOT the 22 points for the grade add-on. The total is 160 instead of 182. Then, for the cohort in question, an average is taken of the Grade Neutral total using each learner.

This methodology was developed to recognize the equal value that ungraded and graded courses can play in a learner journey.

Further Details in [Deep Dive 3- Guide to Insight Tariff](#)



Some Special Cases

A small number of qualifications included in the tool have a structure which requires adjustments to their treatment in the tariff scale. These are:

- Baccalaureate – this award is built up from a number of Higher and Advanced Higher courses plus the completion of an Interdisciplinary project. Since points will have been allocated to the Highers and Advanced Highers, only the Interdisciplinary Project receives additional points – equivalent to half an Advanced Higher
- Foundation Apprenticeships – these awards are built up from a combination of courses. To avoid duplication, no points are included for these awards but each of the component courses will be counted within the tariff calculation.
- Extra value units – In cases when a learner achieves a unit at a level above a related course award, careful consideration of ‘best’ must be made. For example, should a learner attain National 4 Maths course award and a single unit of National 5 Maths then the points given to the N5 unit will have to take into account that points for that unit have been given at N4. The Maths units are 6 SCQF Credit Points each and so are allocated 6 and 11 points at levels 4 and 5 respectively. The learner will receive 33 points for the N4 course award plus the difference between the points for the unit which is 5. The total is 38 points.

Further Information

[Insight Technical Guide](#)

[Deep Dive 3- Guide to Tariff](#)

For more information about the Insight project please visit www.scotland.gov.uk/insightbenchmarking or email insight@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Appendix A – Tariff Principles

A set of six principles underpin the Insight Tariffs. These are:

1. provide the means to support self-evaluation, professional dialogue and performance improvement for school cohorts;
2. be based on qualifications and learning programmes on the SCQF;
3. recognise the value of all types of qualification and learning programme irrespective of assessment methodology;
4. reflect parity of esteem across all qualifications and learning programmes;
5. have a transparent and understandable calculation means, which is statistically robust, educationally relevant and easy to use; and
6. recognise only the ‘best’ qualification in a given subject for each learner.

Appendix B – Reference Tables

Table 1 – SCQF Level Multipliers

SCQF Level	Multiplier
1	1/6
2	1/3
3	2/3
4	1
5	11/6
6	14/3
7	17/2

If the qualification is made up of units from different SCQF levels, it is the level of the course award which is used.

Table 2 – Courses given Course Weight add-on

Course	SCQF Levels
SQA National Awards	4, 5, 6 and 7
SQA National ungraded courses (including Skills for Work)	4,5 and 6
SQA National Progression Awards	4,5 and 6
SQA National Certificates	4,5 and 6
SQA Scottish Vocational Qualifications	4,5 and 6
IFS Certificate in Personal Finance	5
IB Interdisciplinary Project	7
OU YASS	7



Table 3 - Course Weights

SCQF Level	Course Weight
4	9
5	20
6	48
7 – Advanced Higher	128
7 – IP	64

Please note that the Course weight for a National 4 award is given to the added value unit point allocation. If the qualification is a combination of units making up an ungraded course without a course assessment element, its course weight is 0.

Table 4 - Result Weights (National Qualifications)

Result weights vary by SCQF level and type as follows:

SCQF Level	Grade	Result Weight
7	A	80
	B	40
	C	0
	D	-20
6	A	44
	B	22
	C	0
	D	-11
5	A	20
	B	10
	C	0
	D	-5

Table 5 - Result Weights (OU YASS)

SCQF Level	Product type	Grade	Result Weight
7	YASS01 (ungraded)	Pass	0
		Aegrotat Pass	0
	YASS02 (abridged grading)	Distinction	80
		Pass	0
		Aegrotat Pass	0
	YASS03 (full grading)	Distinction	80
		Grade 2 Pass	54
		Grade 3 Pass	27
		Grade 4 Pass	0
		Aegrotat Pass	0



Table 6 - National Course Correction

SCQF Level	National Course Correction
2	18
3	18
4	24
5	24
6	24
7	32
7 - IP	16

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