



Insight Literacy/Numeracy Briefing Paper  
Updated September 2021 (updated Literacy units)

## Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

### 1. What will the measure on improving attainment in literacy and numeracy cover?

The measure on the national dashboard will cover attainment in *both* literacy *and* numeracy. The default dashboard measure focuses on attainment by pupils at exit from secondary school at SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) level 4 or better and SCQF level 5 or better. The measure is appropriately ambitious in order to support the aim of Curriculum for Excellence to improve literacy and numeracy skills. Data on literacy and numeracy as separate measures and individual SCQF levels (3,4,5,&6) is available to users of the tool by clicking the Associated Pages button and select options as appropriate:

To explore this information further:

[Click here to see this information by SCQF level](#)

[Click here to see this information by measure](#)



### 2. How will literacy and numeracy be defined?

A plain English definition has been developed for the measure (see appendix A). A set of technical criteria has also been developed (see appendix B.) These are based upon the outcomes and assessment standards for SQA's literacy and numeracy units at National 4 and National 5 levels. The technical criteria will be used to consider the range of qualifications and learning programmes which contribute to the measure (The qualifiers). A "best fit" rather than "exact match" approach will be used with the key criterion being that the main purpose of the qualification or learning programme is to improve literacy and/or numeracy skills and the assessment standards are applied to a comparable standard to those for SQA's literacy and numeracy units at National 4 and National 5 levels. For example, using the best fit approach, National 5 courses in English, Gàidhlig and Mathematics will serve as proxy measures for literacy /numeracy at that level. Similarly, Higher English, Gàidhlig and Mathematics will serve as proxy measures for literacy/numeracy at SCQF level 6.

When a pupil reaches the required level for literacy and/or numeracy in any single qualifier, they will be counted in this measure. Where a pupil has several results that count towards the measure, they are only included once. For example, a pupil gaining two literacy results at level 4 would be included once in the measure of literacy at level 4 and above.

To be included in the combined Literacy and Numeracy measure at a given SCQF Level, a pupil must have achieved BOTH at that level or at a higher level.

This measure also counts attainment where a pupil is **presented** for and passes a group of units (listed at Appendix C) but who may not sit or gain an award in the final examination e.g. in National 5. This reflects the fact that the specification of those individual units listed are consistent with the standards agreed for the measure.

### 3. What qualifications and learning programmes will contribute to the measures?

The current list of qualifications and learning programmes which qualify for the literacy and numeracy measure is provided at appendix C.

The qualifications and learning programmes currently included in the measure provide clear assurances, in terms of **assessment evidence**, that learners have attained the appropriate level of literacy and numeracy.



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## APPENDIX A – Definition of literacy and numeracy

The plain English definition for the measure is as follows:

### Literacy

This is the ability to communicate by reading, writing, and listening and talking.

### Reading

Reading means the ability to understand and interpret ideas, opinions and information presented in texts, for a purpose and within a context. It includes handling information to make reasoned and informed decisions.

### Writing

Writing means the ability to create texts which communicate ideas, opinions and information, to meet a purpose and within a context.

### Listening and talking

Listening means the ability to understand and interpret ideas, opinions and information presented orally for a purpose and within a context, drawing on non-verbal communication as appropriate.

Talking means the ability to communicate orally ideas, opinions and information for a purpose and within a context.

In the context of qualifications and learning programmes, 'communicating orally' is defined as ways of using words for transactions that are spoken (or signed through British Sign Language (BSL)), which are presented in a way that is accessible for the intended audience.

### Numeracy

This is the ability to use numbers in order to solve problems by counting, doing calculations, measuring, and understanding graphs and charts. This is also the ability to understand the results.

**Number processes** means solving problems arising in everyday life through:  
carrying out calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division  
using whole numbers, fractions, decimal fractions, and percentages  
making informed decisions based on the results of these calculations  
understanding these results

**Money, time and measurement** means using and understanding money, time and measurement to solve practical problems in a variety of contexts using relevant units and suitable instruments, and to appropriate degrees of accuracy.

**Information handling** means being able to interpret data in tables, charts and other graphical displays to draw sensible conclusions. It involves interpreting the data and considering its reliability in making reasoned deductions and informed decisions. It also involves an awareness and understanding of the chance of events happening.



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**APPENDIX B – Criteria for the measure**

The **technical criteria** for the measure are based upon the outcomes and assessment standards for SQA’s literacy and numeracy units at National 4 and National 5 levels. The technical criteria will be used to consider the range of qualifications and learning programmes to be included in the measure. A “best fit” rather than “exact match” approach will be used with the key criterion being that the main purpose of the qualification or award is to improve literacy and/or numeracy skills and the assessment standards are applied to a comparable standard to those for SQA’s literacy and numeracy units at National 4 and National 5 levels. For example, using the best fit approach, National 5 courses in English, Gàidhlig and Mathematics will serve as proxy measures for literacy /numeracy at that level. Similarly, Higher English, Gàidhlig and Mathematics will serve as proxy measures for literacy/numeracy at SCQF level 6.

<b>Outcomes and Assessment Standards for Literacy at National 4 and 5 level</b>	
<b>Literacy (National 4)</b>	<b>Literacy (National 5)</b>
The general aim of this Unit is to develop the learners’ reading, listening, writing and talking skills in a variety of forms relevant for learning, life and work. Learners will develop the ability to understand straightforward ideas and information presented orally and in writing. Learners will also develop the ability to communicate ideas and information orally and in writing with technical accuracy.	The general aim of this Unit is to develop the learners’ reading, listening, writing and talking skills in a variety of forms relevant for learning, life and work. Learners will develop the ability to understand complex ideas and information presented orally and in writing. Learners will also develop the ability to communicate ideas and information orally and in writing with technical accuracy.
<b>Outcome 1. Read and understand straightforward word-based texts by:</b>	<b>Outcome 1. Read and understand complex word-based texts by:</b>
1.1 selecting and using relevant information 1.2 explaining aspects including audience and purpose 1.3. commenting on effectiveness	1.1 selecting and using relevant information 1.2 explaining a range of aspects 1.3. evaluating effectiveness
<b>Outcome 2. Listen to and understand straightforward spoken communication by:</b>	<b>Outcome 2. Listen to and understand complex spoken communication by:</b>
2.1 selecting and using relevant information 2.2 explaining aspects including audience and purpose 2.3. commenting on effectiveness	2.1 selecting and using relevant information 2.2 explaining a range of aspects 2.3 evaluating effectiveness
<b>Outcome 3. Write straightforward technically accurate texts by:</b>	<b>Outcome 3. Write complex technically accurate texts by:</b>
3.1 selecting and using appropriate language 3.2 organising writing appropriately 3.3. using appropriate spelling, grammar and punctuation	3.1 selecting and using appropriate language 3.2 organising writing appropriately 3.3. using appropriate spelling, grammar and punctuation



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**APPENDIX C – Qualifications/awards that contribute to Literacy and/or Numeracy measure.**

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**-Literacy**

**Legacy Qualifications – Included in historical attainment data.**

	SCQF level 3	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 6
Courses	Standard Grade English	Standard Grade English	Standard Grade English	Higher English
	Standard Grade Gàidhlig	Standard Grade Gàidhlig	Standard Grade Gàidhlig	Higher Gàidhlig
	Access 3 English	Intermediate 1 English	Intermediate 2 English	
	Access 3 Gàidhlig	Intermediate 1 Gàidhlig	Intermediate 2 Gàidhlig	
	Access 3 ESOL		Intermediate 2 ESOL	Higher ESOL

**Current Qualifications**

Note recent update of some SQA Codes from C7XX to C8XX. Legacy codes will continue to be captured.

Note identified SCQF Core Skills Units will contribute from Sept 19

*Note recent update of some SQA Codes from C7XX to C8XX. Legacy codes will continue to be captured by insight.*

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**SCQF Level 3 – Attainment in any single Literacy Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 3 Literacy.**

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 3 English	3	Course Award Pass	English	C724
National 3 ESOL	3	Course Award Pass	English for Speakers of Other Languages	C727
National 3 Gàidhlig	3	Course Award Pass	Gàidhlig	C732
National 3 Literacy	3	Unit Award Pass	Literacy	H23W
SCQF Level 3 Communication	3	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Communication	F3GB
National 3 Gàidhlig Literacy	3	Unit Award Pass	Litèarrachd Ghàidhlig	H27C
National 3 ESOL Unit Group	3	Unit Award Pass	ESOL for Everyday Life	H24H
		(Both must be passed)	ESOL in Context	H24L

**SCQF Level 4 – Attainment in any single Literacy Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 4 Literacy.**

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 4 English	4	Course Award Pass	English	C724
National 4 ESOL	4	Course Award Pass	English for Speakers of Other Languages	C727
National 4 Gàidhlig	4	Course Award Pass	Gàidhlig	C732
National 4 Sfw Travel and Tourism	4	Course Award Pass	Skills for Work: Travel and Tourism	C776
National 4 Literacy (Unit)	4	Unit Award Pass	Literacy	H23W
SCQF Level 4 Communication	4	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Communication	F3GB
National 4 Gàidhlig Literacy (Unit)	4	Unit Award Pass	Litèarrachd Ghàidhlig	H27C
National 4 ESOL Unit Group	4	Unit Award Pass	ESOL for Everyday Life	H24H
		(Both must be passed)	ESOL in Context	H24L



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**SCQF Level 5** – Attainment in any single Literacy Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 5 Literacy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 5 English	5	Course Award A-D	English	C824
National 5 ESOL	5	Course Award A-D	English for Speakers of Other Languages	C827
National 5 Gàidhlig	5	Course Award A-D	Gàidhlig	C732
National 5 Sfw Travel and Tourism	5	Course Award Pass	Skills for Work: Travel and Tourism	C776
National 5 Literacy (Unit)	5	Unit Award Pass	Literacy	H23W
SCQF Level 5 Communication	5	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Communication	F3GB
National 5 Gàidhlig Literacy (Unit)	5	Unit Award Pass	Litèarrachd Ghàidhlig	H27C
National 5 English Group	5	Unit Award Pass	English: Analysis and Evaluation *	J2A9/H6MF*
		(Both must be passed)	English: Creation and Production *	J2AC/H6Ns*
National 5 ESOL Unit Group	5	Unit Award Pass	ESOL for Everyday Life	H24H
		(Both must be passed)	ESOL in Context	H24L
National 5 Gàidhlig Unit Group	5	Unit Award Pass	Gaidhlig: Deanamh agus Cruthachadh	H27D
		(Both must be passed)	Gaidhlig: Mion-sgrudadh agus Luachadh	H27E

H23H and H23T (now legacy codes) will continue to contribute to Literacy Award

**SCQF Level 6** – Attainment in any single Literacy Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 6 Literacy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
Higher English	6	Course Award A-D	English	C824
Higher ESOL	6	Course Award A-D	English for Speakers of Other Languages	C827
Higher Gàidhlig	6	Course Award A-D	Gàidhlig	C832
SCQF Level 6 Communication	6	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Communication	F3GB
SCQF Level 6 Communication	6	Unit Award Pass	NC Communication Unit	FA1W
Higher English Unit Group	6	Unit Award Pass	English: Analysis and Evaluation *	J2AB
		(Both must be passed)	English: Creation and Production *	J2AD/H6Ns*
Higher ESOL Unit Group 1	6	Unit Award Pass	ESOL for Everyday Life	H24H
		(Both must be passed)	ESOL in Work-Related Contexts	H4X6
Higher ESOL Unit Group 2	6	Unit Award Pass	ESOL for Everyday Life	H24H
		(Both must be passed)	ESOL in Study-Related Contexts	H4X7
Higher Gàidhlig Unit Group	6	Unit Award Pass	Gaidhlig: Deanamh agus Cruthachadh	H27D
		(Both must be passed)	Gaidhlig: Mion-sgrudadh agus Luachadh	H27E

H23H and H23T (now legacy codes) will continue to contribute to Literacy Award



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## Numeracy

### Legacy Qualifications – Included in historical attainment data.

	SCQF level 3	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 6
Courses	Standard Grade Mathematics	Standard Grade Mathematics	Standard Grade Mathematics	Higher Mathematics
	Standard Grade Matamataig	Standard Grade Matamataig	Standard Grade Matamataig	Higher Matamataig
	Access 3 Mathematics	Intermediate 1 Mathematics	Intermediate 2 Mathematics	

### Current Qualifications

Note recent update of some SQA Codes from C7XX to C8XX. Legacy codes will continue to be captured.

**SCQF Level 3** – Attainment in any single Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 3 Numeracy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 3 Applications of Mathematics	3	Course Award Pass	Applications of Mathematics	C744
National 3 Mata,ataig Fad-bheatha	3	Course Award Pass	Mata,ataig Fad-bheatha	C773
National 3 Numeracy (Unit)	3	Unit Award Pass	Numeracy	H225
National 3 Aireamhachd (Unit)	3	Unit Award Pass	Aireamhachd	H2VE
SCQF Level 3 Numeracy	3	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Numeracy	F3GF

**SCQF Level 4** - Attainment in any single Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 4 Numeracy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 4 Applications of Mathematics	4	Course Award Pass	Applications of Mathematics	C744
National 4 Mathematics	4	Course Award Pass	Mathematics	C747
National 4 Matamataig Fad-bheatha	4	Course Award Pass	Matamataig Fad-bheatha	C773
National 4 Matamataig	4	Course Award Pass	Matamataig	C774
National 4 Numeracy (Unit)	4	Unit Award Pass	Numeracy	H225
National 4 Aireamhachd (Unit)	4	Unit Award Pass	Aireamhachd	H2VE
SCQF Level 4 Numeracy	4	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Numeracy	F3GF

**SCQF Level 5** - Attainment in any single Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 5 Numeracy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
National 5 Applications of Mathematics	5	Course Award A-D	Applications of Mathematics	C844
National 5 Mathematics	5	Course Award A-D	Mathematics	C847
National 5 Matamataig Fad-bheatha	5	Course Award A-D	Matamataig Fad-bheatha	C873
National 5 Matamataig	5	Course Award A-D	Matamataig	C874
National 5 Numeracy (Unit)	5	Unit Award Pass	Numeracy	H225
National 5 Aireamhachd (Unit)	5	Unit Award Pass	Aireamhachd	H2VE
SCQF Level 5 Numeracy	5	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Numeracy	F3GF
National 5 Mathematics Unit Group	5	Unit Award Pass (All must be passed)	Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae	H4LC
			Mathematics: Relationships	H22G
			Mathematics: Applications	H22J
National 5 Matamataig Unit Group	5	Unit Award Pass (All must be passed)	Matamataig: Samhlan agus Foirmean	H2VM
			Matamataig: Ceangalan	H2VP
			Matamataig: Cur an sas	H2VV

**SCQF Level 6** - Attainment in any single Qualifier listed will be captured within Insight Level 6 Numeracy.

Literacy Qualifier	SCQF level	Award Type	Qualification Title	SQA Code
Higher Mathematics	6	Course Award A-D	Mathematics	C847
Higher Matamataig	6	Course Award A-D	Matamataig	C874
Higher Mathematics Unit Group	6	Unit Award Pass (All must be passed)	Mathematics: Expressions and Functions	H4LC
			Mathematics: Relationships and Calculus	H4LD
			Mathematics: Applications	H22J
Higher Matamataig Unit Group	6	Unit Award Pass (All must be passed)	Matamataig: Abertain agus Fuincseanan	H4WF
			Matamataig: Daimhean agus Calculus	H4WG
			Matamataig: Cleachdadh	H4WH
SCQF Level 6 Numeracy	6	Unit Award Pass	Core Skills: Numeracy	F3GF