



Institute of Animal Technology

IAT QCF Levels 2 & 3 Guide For Learners

Introduction

The Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) is the structure for creating and accrediting learning in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own framework). The QCF is designed to provide learners, learning providers and employers with an inclusive and flexible regulated qualifications framework containing units and qualifications that recognise the widest possible range of quality assured learner achievements. Learner achievements are recognised in the form of credits achieved by successfully completing units.

Further information on the QCF can be found at www.iat.org.uk



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How the QCF works

All QCF qualifications are built up from **units**. A unit is a piece of learning, usually (but not necessarily) smaller than a whole qualification. This makes learning more flexible as people can complete units at a pace and in a way that suits their circumstances and helps providers and employers to create learning programmes that are better suited to individual needs. Each unit is designed so you see what the learning or training involves and what will be achieved by the learner.

A unit is defined as a coherent set of learning outcomes and related assessment criteria with a title, credit value and level. Each unit must:

- be capable of being individually assessed
- be capable of contributing towards at least one qualification

Units can be generic and applicable to a range of contexts and qualifications. Information on delivery, content/coverage, assessment methods or learning modes are not included within the definition of a unit but can be specified within the supporting documentation. This explains the layout of the new syllabus. The supporting information can be found towards the end of the syllabus, after the unit specification.

QCF units will replace the IAT First Certificate, First Diploma and National Certificate modules. The mapping of QCF units to the modules is shown on page 8.

Levels

The level describes the degree of challenge required to complete the unit. Each unit must be assigned a level. The IAT are interested in level 2 (e.g. GCSE grade C or above, First Diploma, NVQ level 2) and level 3 (e.g. A level, National Diploma, NVQ level 3). In addition each unit must have a **credit value**.

The IAT's Educational Policy above level 3 is that learners should then progress into Higher Education.

Assessment

The table overleaf shows the assessment strategy. It is about finding the right balance of assessment methods and trying to develop animal technologists with a full range of capabilities including a good recall of relevant information for the workplace. The IAT has set a broad assessment method for each unit but Centres are free to design their own specific assessments within the broad framework.

NQF Module	QCF unit	Assessment
Housing and routine care of animals	Laboratory animal housing and routines	Competency or written laboratory assessment
Breeding and feeding	The production of laboratory animals	Unit test
	Laboratory animal nutrition	Competency or written assessment
Ethics, law, euthanasia and health and safety	Introduction to ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	Unit test
Animal husbandry and health	Laboratory animal husbandry and health	Competency or written assessment
Biological science	Laboratory animal biology	Written assessment
Physical science	Animal facility physical science	Written assessment
ICT, Communication & Numeracy	Numeracy for animal technologists	Written assessment
	Communication for animal technologists	Written assessment
	Information Communication Technology for animal technologists	Written assessment
Management of the animals' environment and disease control	Housing and biosecurity barriers in laboratory animal facilities	Written assessment
	Disease control	Written assessment
	Laboratory animal welfare	Unit test
Scientific procedures	Scientific procedures	Written assessment
Animal breeding and genetic alteration	The use of genetically altered animals	Written assessment
	Management of breeding colonies	Written assessment
Ethics, animal legislation, transport and good laboratory practice	Ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	Unit test
	Animal transportation	Written assessment
Cell biology	Animal cell biology	Written assessment
Physiology	Laboratory animal physiology	Unit test

Grading the IAT units

Each assessment is graded as a Pass, Merit, Distinction. The grade is based on the learning outcomes and grading criteria. To achieve the grade, you must meet ALL of the learning outcomes and grading criteria associated with the particular grade being awarded.

If you fail to achieve all of the learning outcomes and grading criteria associated with the Pass grade, the unit is referred and you are given a chance to bring the work up to the appropriate standard. The final grade for each unit will be displayed on the final Certificate and the Certificate of Achievement. There is no overall grade for the qualification.

Questions

General

Why is the IAT changing so soon?

These changes were laid down in 2008 for the move over to the QCF in 2010. All Awarding Bodies wanting to keep their qualifications on the national framework will have to move their qualifications on to the QCF. The IAT have planned for this and the changes will be minimised as far as is possible for Centres and learners.

What are the new units called and how do they compare with existing modules?

Existing NQF Module	NEW QCF unit	Assessment Option
Housing and routine care of animals	Laboratory animal housing and routines	Competency or written laboratory assessment
Breeding and feeding	The production of laboratory animals	Unit test
	Laboratory animal nutrition	Competency or written assessment
Ethics, law, euthanasia and health and safety	Introduction to ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	Unit test
Animal husbandry and health	Laboratory animal husbandry and health	Competency or written assessment
Biological science	Laboratory animal biology	Written assessment
Physical science	Animal facility physical science	Written assessment
ICT, Communication & Numeracy	Numeracy for animal technologists	Written assessment
	Communication for animal technologists	Written assessment
	Information Communication Technology for animal technologists	Written assessment
Management of the animals' environment and disease control	Housing and biosecurity barriers in laboratory animal facilities	Written assessment
	Disease control	Written assessment
	Laboratory animal welfare	Unit test
Scientific procedures	Scientific procedures	Written assessment
Animal breeding and genetic alteration	The use of generally altered animals	Written assessment
	Management of breeding colonies	Written assessment
Ethics, animal legislation, transport and good laboratory practice	Ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	Unit test
	Animal transportation	Written assessment
Cell biology	Animal cell biology	Written assessment
Physiology	Laboratory animal physiology	Unit test

How do the qualifications link to the IAT membership?

The rules for IAT Membership can be found on the IAT website. The IAT Level 2 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science and Technology and the Membership module will lead to the Intermediate Membership level. IAT Level 3 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science and Technology and the Membership module will lead to the full Membership (MIAT).

Will the registration process change?

There will be a single registration one off fee for each qualification. This will replace the individual module registration fee. Learners will be registered for the full qualification.

What changes will I need to make as a:

- Centre
- Learner

Learner: learners will be required to do less assignments and some more unit tests. They will take more smaller units but otherwise there will not be any obvious changes.

Will the 5 year rule on exemptions still apply?

No, this will no longer be used as it is discouraged on the QCF.

I presume proxy exemptions no longer apply?

No, there will be a list of proxy qualifications as it becomes clear which QCF qualifications are relevant. Learners can still apply for recognition of prior learning through the normal procedures. Details are on the IAT website.

What information do I need to present to the Centre to apply for an exemption from a unit?

The Moderator will require evidence of your prior learning. Generally it will be through a certificate showing your prior performance. You will need evidence that the learning covered relevant topics at the appropriate level, so a list of modules or syllabus would also help if it is a qualification not on the proxy list. For non UK qualifications you may need to have them translated or an independent assessment of their level.

What are the new units?

Unit title		Level	Credit
IAT Level 2 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Husbandry (QCF) 600/0558/0			
Laboratory animal housing and routines	F/602/5879	2	12
The production of laboratory animals	T/602/5880	2	8
Laboratory animal nutrition	A/602/5881	2	4
Introduction to ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	F/602/5882	2	12
Laboratory animal health and husbandry	J/602/5883	2	12
IAT Level 2 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science and Technology (QCF) 600/0559/2			
Laboratory animal housing and routines	F/602/5879	2	12
The production of laboratory animals	T/602/5880	2	8
Laboratory animal nutrition	A/602/5881	2	4
Introduction to ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	F/602/5882	2	12
Laboratory animal health and husbandry	J/602/5883	2	12
Laboratory animal biology	Y/602/6049	2	8
Animal facility physical science	L/602/6050	2	8
Numeracy for animal technologists	D/602/6053	2	4
Communication for animal technologists	Y/602/6052	2	4
Information Communication Technology for animal technologists	R/602/6051	2	4
IAT Level 3 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science and Technology (QCF) 600/0560/9			
Housing and biosecurity barriers in laboratory animal facilities	A/602/5976	3	8
Disease control	M/602/6039	3	12
Laboratory animal welfare	H/602/6040	3	8
Management of breeding colonies	K/602/6041	3	12
The use of genetically altered animals in research	M/602/6042	3	8
Scientific procedures	T/602/6043	3	12
Ethics and laboratory animal facility legislation	A/602/6044	3	12
Animal transportation	J/602/6046	3	8
Animal cell biology	L/602/6047	3	8
Laboratory animal physiology	R/602/6048	3	12



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