



Unit Award Scheme (UAS)

Achievement for All

What is the UAS?

- Established in 1984, this unit-based approach formally recognises achievement in all non-qualification contexts.
- It can be used with any age and any ability, in any subject area or activity.
- Thousands of units are available for you to use or amend – alternatively, you can write your own.
- It provides interim accreditation for some of our unit-based qualifications.



Who uses the UAS?

- Many different types of organisations: some are large dealing with hundreds of learners, others are much smaller.
- Users include mainstream and SEN schools, youth services, pupil referral services, prisons, charities, voluntary and community organisations, training providers and youth offending teams.



How does the UAS work?

- Every registered organisation has a trained Co-ordinator to oversee the Scheme.
- Each unit clearly sets out what is to be covered, the outcomes that must be achieved and how these are to be evidenced and assessed.
- A responsible adult (who may or may not be the Co-ordinator) teaches the unit and ensures that all evidence is present and correct to show that every outcome on a unit has been achieved.
- An AQA appointed Assessor monitors the assessment procedures and evidence.
- We send certificates shortly after receiving notification that units have been achieved.
- This can happen at any time, throughout the year.

What can be accredited?

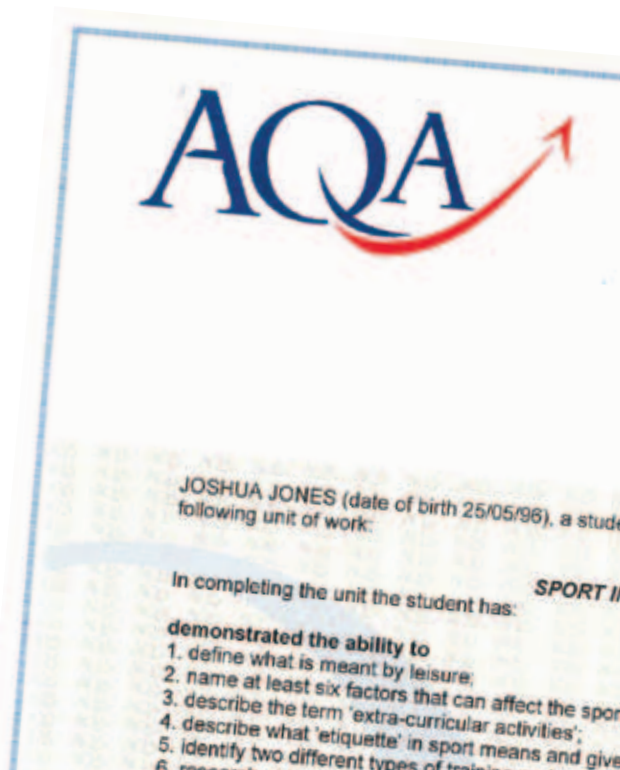
- Almost anything – as long as it is a valid educational experience.
- The list is as diverse as your students and includes: traditional subjects, life skills, hobbies, crafts and interests, extra and cross curricular skills, work related learning, community work and volunteering, sports, PSHE and citizenship, leadership, teamwork and communication skills.
- Even the smallest steps of achievement can be recognised, perhaps where additional support or assistance is needed, to complete a unit.

Benefits of the Scheme

- Extremely flexible in terms of what, when and how learning can be accredited.
- Useful in helping progression to further study, training, employment or independent living.
- Especially suitable for some of the most vulnerable in society, eg NEETs, those with challenging behaviour and/or SEN and school phobics.
- Motivates, engages, encourages, supports and raises self-esteem.
- Certificates are usually issued promptly, within 15 working days.
- Units can be written for individual students.
- Can be used to accredit what is already being learnt – you don't have to change what you do.
- Rewards achievement which might otherwise go unrecognised.
- Easy to use, with support readily available if you need it.
- Can be used as interim formal recognition for some of our unit-based qualifications.

What about certification?

- Each time a unit is achieved, a *Unit Award Statement* is issued.
- This does not show a level, but it does list all the skills, abilities, knowledge and/or understanding which has been shown, together with any experiences.
- The *Statement* provides a really good talking point for prospective employers and educational/training organisations.
- A summary certificate called a *Letter of Credit* can be issued when a student leaves.





What about quality assurance?

- Any centre joining the UAS is carefully vetted.
- All units are validated to ensure they provide a clear, coherent unit of work.
- An AQA Assessor is assigned to each registered centre to monitor the UAS.
- The UAS is included in the *Network for Accrediting Young People's Awards* which has its own quality assurance guidelines.

How do I register?

- You can join at any time of year.
- Your chosen Co-ordinator will need to have a day's training with us.
- Training meetings are held throughout the year
- A 'Centre Registration Form' must be completed and references may be required.
- Dates of forthcoming training meetings are on our website, but please contact us to request a booking form and discuss your proposed use of the UAS.

What are the fees?

- A fee is charged for the training day.
- A fee is charged for a one off Assessor's visit.
- After this, fees are charged per student per year – not per unit.
- There is a small fee for writing your own units but making minor changes to existing units is free.
- For the current fees schedule see: aqa.org.uk/uas.

How to contact us

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