

Using the Scheme with AQA's Entry Level Qualifications

- If a centre wishes to accredit the achievement of individual units from the AQA Entry Level qualifications, this can be done with most specifications through the Unit Award Scheme (UAS).
- Each specification is made up of a series of units. Most specifications impose certain restrictions on the combinations of units which may be chosen.
- Entry Level qualifications are targeted at students who are working at a level below Grade G GCSE or NVQ Level 1.
- AQA offers unit-based Entry Level specifications with links to the UAS in the following subjects:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chinese (Mandarin) | Home Economics: Child Development |
| Design & Technology | Italian |
| English | Mathematics |
| French | Preparation for Working Life |
| German | Science |
| History | Spanish |

- Unfortunately it is not possible to offer links with the Entry Level qualification in Art & Design, Geography and Religious Studies.
- It is important that centres entering students for any of these qualifications use units from the correct specification, eg 2013 specification for the award of the qualification in Summer 2013. All units associated with the specifications that have been approved for teaching from September 2011, can be found on the AQA website at http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/uas/uas_links_elc.php. These new specifications and outgoing specifications can be found on the AQA website <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/elc/index.php>.
- For the foreseeable future, UAS centres can continue to use and have accredited the achievement of units from the outgoing Entry Level specifications, even though the related qualification has ceased to be available. However, centres are encouraged to use units from the new specifications where possible as this will allow greater scope for progression.

Accrediting achievement of individual units through the UAS

- Many teachers would like their students to receive credit for each individual unit which they complete as they progress through the course. The UAS provides such a facility.
- Students at centres which are registered to participate in the UAS obtain a *Unit Award Statement* for each unit that they complete. The *Statement* shows the title and outcomes of the unit. A student could therefore obtain a series of *Unit Award Statements* for every unit that he/she is following.
- To receive accreditation for an individual unit under the UAS, a student must demonstrate achievement of all the outcomes of that unit. The specification requires the completion of externally-set assignments for certain units. For UAS purposes, it is **not** necessary for the student to submit work done in response to an externally-set task, although such evidence **may** be submitted instead of, or as well as, the other evidence which is specified for that unit. The unit will be awarded within the UAS provided that **all** outcomes have been achieved and sufficient appropriate evidence has been produced to demonstrate this achievement.

- *Unit Award Statements* are issued shortly after the student has completed a unit and can be included within a student's progress file or equivalent.
- In formally recognising the smaller steps of achievement which each completed unit represents, the UAS serves to encourage and motivate students for whom the final award of the qualification may seem a distant goal.
- Those students who cannot, for whatever reason, produce enough work across the required number of units to be entered for a qualification may still receive formal recognition, through the UAS, for any units which they have completed.

The AQA Unit Award Scheme

- Approximately 1200 centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland use the UAS. These centres can use the UAS in relation to AQA ELC qualifications as well as the Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education (FCSE) in modern foreign languages and the QCF Qualification in Personal and Social Education (PSE). It is also used with students of all abilities and ages in a wide range of non-qualification contexts, including curriculum delivery, work-related learning and work experience, enrichment activities, personal development, sport, outdoor pursuits and study skills. The Scheme can also be used to acknowledge the achievement of students with particular learning difficulties for whom courses leading to a qualification may be inappropriate.

How to register for the AQA UAS

- Centres wishing to use the UAS must be **specifically** registered for that purpose with the UAS department in Harrogate. **This is a separate registration from that for the ELC qualifications.**
- If in doubt, contact the UAS department for advice.

Unit Award Scheme fees

- All UAS fees are **additional** to those charged for the ELC qualifications. Please refer to our current [fees](#) for more details.

Contact us

Further information is available from

AQA
Unit Award Scheme Department
31-33 Springfield Avenue
Harrogate
HG1 2HW
Tel: 01423 534235
Fax: 01423 564875
e-mail: unitawardscheme@qa.org.uk
<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/uas.php>