

Annexure 2: NSQF level outlines

NSQF levels in the context of work roles

LEVEL 1: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 1 will be routine, repetitive, and focused on limited tasks carried out under close supervision. In some sectors, people carrying out these job roles may be described as “helpers”.

Individuals in jobs which require level 1 qualifications **may** be expected to be able to read, write, add and subtract, but will not normally be required to have any previous knowledge or skills relating to the work¹⁷.

When employed, they will be instructed in their tasks and expected to learn and use the common terminology of the trade and acquire the basic skills necessary for the work.

Job holders at this level will be expected to carry out the tasks they are given safely and securely and to use hygienic and environmentally friendly practices. This means that they will be expected to take some responsibility for their own health and safety and that of fellow workers.

In working with others, they will be expected to respect the different social and religious backgrounds of their fellow workers.

LEVEL 2: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 2 will also be routine and repetitive, and tasks will be carried out under close supervision. The individuals will not be expected to deal independently with variables which affect the carrying out of the work. People carrying out these work roles may be described as “assistants” and the range of tasks they carry out will be limited.

Individuals in jobs which require level 2 qualifications will normally be expected to be able to read and write, add and subtract. Their work may involve taking and passing on messages.

They may also be expected to have some previous experience, knowledge and skills in the occupation. When employed, they will be instructed in their tasks and expected to acquire the practical skills necessary to assist skilled workers and/or give a limited service to customers. They will learn about, and use, the materials, tools and applications required to carry out basic tasks in an occupation. They may have to select the appropriate materials, tools and/or applications to carry out tasks.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in their job role and distinguish between good and bad quality in the context of the tasks they are given. Job holders at this level will be expected to carry out the tasks they are given safely and securely and to use hygienic and environmentally friendly practices. This means that they will be expected to take some responsibility for their own health and safety and that of fellow workers and, where appropriate, customers.

In working with others, they will be expected to respect the different social and religious backgrounds of their fellow workers, but their contribution to team work may be limited.

LEVEL 3: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 3 will be routine and predictable. Job holders will be responsible for carrying out a limited range of jobs under close supervision. Their work may require the completion of a number of related tasks. People carrying out these job roles may be described as “partly-skilled workers”.

¹⁷ In practice many workers at this level will have limited literacy and NOS and qualifications at this levels should reflect this – eg in relation to assessment.

Individuals in jobs which require level 3 qualifications will normally be expected to be able to communicate clearly in speech and writing and may be required to use arithmetic and algebraic processes. They will be expected to have previous knowledge and skills in the occupation and should know the basic facts, processes and principles applied in the trade for which they are qualified and be able to apply the basic skills of the trade to a limited range of straightforward jobs in the occupation.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in their job role and more widely in the sector or sub-sector and to distinguish between good and bad quality in the context of the jobs they are given. Job holders at this level will be expected to carry out the jobs they are given safely and securely. They will work hygienically and in ways which show an understanding of environmental issues. This means that they will be expected to take responsibility for their own health and safety and that of fellow workers and, where appropriate, customers and/or clients.

In working with others, they will be expected to conduct themselves in ways which show a basic understanding of the social environment. They should be able to make a good contribution to team work.

LEVEL 4: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 4 will be carried out in familiar, predictable and routine situations. Job holders will be responsible for carrying out a range of jobs, some of which will require them to make choices about the approaches they adopt. They will be expected to learn and improve their practice on the job. People carrying out these jobs may be described as “skilled workers”.

Individuals in jobs which require level 4 qualifications should be able to communicate clearly in speech and writing and may be required to use arithmetic and algebraic processes. They will be expected to have previous knowledge and skills in the occupation in which they are employed, to appreciate the nature of the occupation and to understand and apply the rules which govern good practice. They will be able to make choices about the best way to carry out routine jobs where the choices are clear.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in the occupation and will distinguish between good and bad quality in the context of their job roles. Job holders at this level will be expected to carry out their work safely and securely and take full account of the health and safety on colleagues and customers. They will work hygienically and in ways which show an understanding of environmental issues.

In working with others, they will be expected to conduct themselves in ways which show a basic understanding of the social and political environment. They should be able to guide or lead teams on work within their capability.

LEVEL 5: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 5 will also be carried out in familiar situations, but also ones where problems may arise. Job holders will be able to make choices about the best procedures to adopt to address problems where the choices are clear.

Individuals in jobs which require level 5 qualifications will normally be responsible for the completion of their own work and expected to learn and improve their performance on the job. They will require well developed practical and cognitive skills to complete their work. They may also have some responsibility for others’ work and learning. People carrying out these jobs may be described as “fully skilled workers” or “supervisors”.

Individuals employed to carry out these jobs will be expected to be able to communicate clearly in speech and writing and may be required to apply mathematical processes. They should also be able to collect and organise information to communicate about the work. They will solve problems by selecting and applying methods, tools, materials and information.

They will be expected to have previous knowledge and skills in the occupation, and to know and apply facts, principles, processes and general concepts in the occupation.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in the occupation and will distinguish between good and bad quality in the context of their work. They will be expected to operate hygienically and in ways which show an understanding of environmental issues. They will take account of health and safety issues as they affect the work they carry out or supervise.

In working with others, they will be expected to conduct themselves in ways which show an understanding of the social and political environment.

LEVEL 6: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 6 will require the use of both standard and non-standard practices. Job holders will carry out a broad range of work which will require a wide range of specialised technical skills backed by clear factual and theoretical knowledge.

Individuals in jobs which require level 6 qualifications will normally be responsible for the completion of their own work and expected to learn and improve their performance on the job. They are likely to have full responsibility for others' work and learning. People carrying out these jobs may be described as "master technicians" and "trainers".

Individuals employed to carry out these job roles will be expected to be able to communicate clearly in speech and writing and may be required to carry out mathematical calculations. They should also be able to collect data, organise information, and communicate logically about the work. They will solve problems by selecting and applying methods, tools, materials and information.

They will be expected to have broad factual and theoretical knowledge applying to practice within the occupation, and a range of practical and cognitive skills. They will be able to generate solutions to problems which arise in their practice.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in the occupation and to distinguish between good and bad quality in the context of all aspects of their work. They will be expected to work in ways which show an understanding of environmental issues. They will take account of health and safety issues as they affect the work they carry out or manage.

In working with others, they will be expected to conduct themselves in ways which show an understanding of the social and political environment.

LEVEL 7: Work requiring knowledge, skills and aptitudes at level 7 will take place in contexts which combine the routine and the non-routine and are subject to variations. Job holders will carry out a broad range of work which requires wide-ranging specialised theoretical and practical skills.

Individuals in jobs which require level 7 qualifications will normally be responsible for the output and development of a work group within an organisation. People carrying out these job roles are likely to be graduates. They may be described as "managers" or "senior technicians".

Individuals employed to carry out these job roles will be expected to be able to communicate clearly in speech and writing and are likely to be required to carry out mathematical calculations as part of their work. They should also be skilful in collecting and organising information to communicate logically about the work.

They will be expected to have wide-ranging factual and theoretical knowledge of practice within the occupation, and a wide range of specialised practical and cognitive skills. They will be able to generate solutions to problems which arise in their work.

They will be expected to understand what constitutes quality in the occupation and distinguish between good and bad quality in all aspects of their work. They will be expected to work in ways which show a good understanding of environmental issues. They will take account of health and safety issues as they affect the work they carry out and manage.

In working with others, they will be expected to conduct themselves in ways which show a good understanding of the social and political environment.

LEVEL 8: Individuals in jobs which require level 8 qualifications will normally be responsible for managing the work of a team and developing the team. The work will involve dealing with unpredictable circumstances affecting the work.

Their work will require the use of comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the occupational field and a commitment to self-development.

They will normally need an ability to develop creative solutions to problems requiring abstract thought. They will be required to show intellectual independence and a rigorous analytical ability. They will need to be good communicators.

LEVEL 9: Individuals in jobs which require level 9 qualifications will normally be responsible for complex decision-making in unpredictable contexts.

They will have to exercise senior responsibility in an organisation and show mastery of the issues in the occupation and the ability to innovate.

Their work will require the use of advanced knowledge and skill. They may make contributions to knowledge in their field through research.

LEVEL 10: Job Individuals in jobs which require level 10 qualifications will normally be responsible for strategic decision-making. The context of their work will be complex and unpredictable.

They are likely to be responsible for an organisation or a significant division of an organisation. They will have to provide leadership.

Their work will require highly specialised knowledge and problem-solving skills. They may make original contributions to knowledge in their field through research, scholarship or innovative practice.