

Top Tips for the QCF

Rules of Combination (RoC) for qualifications within the QCF – Part Two

Developing a format for rules of combination for a QCF qualification...

Rules of Combination (RoC) are a tool to make sure that the qualification is tailored to meet the specific needs of the target group. They vary according to each qualification.

RoC are normally developed using the information below. Those statements highlighted in red represent the minimum that need to be decided within the RoC. The other statements apply when and where they are deemed relevant by the submitting organisation.

- **Qualification title**
 - Records the qualification title
- **Credit value of qualification**
 - Sets out the number of credits required at all levels to achieve the qualification
- **The credits to be achieved at the level of the qualification or above**
 - Sets out the number of credits that must be achieved at the level of the qualification or above.
- **Credits from mandatory units**
 - Sets out any unit that must be achieved for the qualification to be awarded.
- **Credits from optional units**
 - Sets out the units from which a learner may choose in order to achieve a required number of units or credit towards the qualification. Sometimes, optional units may be clustered into groups, with particular combinations required or barred.
- **Credit from other units**
 - Sets out any opportunity to achieve credits from units in the databank
- **Credits from equivalent units**
 - Sets out any opportunity to achieve credits from units from other qualifications, which may be offered by a different awarding organisation, in place of mandatory or optional units. The equivalent unit must have the same or higher credit value, and be at the same or higher level than the mandatory or optional unit.
- **Exemptions**
 - Sets out any exemption from the requirement to achieve credits from units in the databank from mandatory, optional or other units.

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- **Time limits on credit accumulation or exemptions**
- Sets out any limits on the length of time that an award gained by a learner may still count towards a qualification.

RoC may vary from the simple to the more complex.

A qualification may recognise the minimum set of achievements required to enter a particular employment role in a sector.

An example of simple RoC is where all entrants to a particular role are expected to meet a minimum set of achievements required to enter a particular employment role in a sector. In this situation, all entrants to a role are expected to meet these mandatory requirements and there are no options within the qualification. For example,

Qualification Title:		
Level 2 Award in Working with the Elderly		
Credit value: 5		
Minimum credit to be achieved at, or above, the level of the qualification: 6		
Mandatory units (credit value 5)		
Title	Credits	Level
Working with the elderly	5	2

- An example of more complex RoC is where a qualification needs to provide for a number of specialisms implicit within the qualification title. Each specialism is identified through an endorsed subtitle linked to a particular pathway. In the example on the next page, a number of pathways are identified, each one linked to a smaller number of optional units that link to the specialist area.
- This type of structure enables a baseline to be established so that people with very different specialist skills all have a common set of skills and knowledge that are considered to be essential to the employment role. This can be particularly helpful in supporting progression or enabling labour mobility and/or job flexibility.

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Qualification Title:		
Level 3 Certificate in professional cooking (specialist pathway)		
Specialist pathways:		
(English) (Italian) (French) (Spanish) (Greek) (Turkish) (Indian) (Chinese) (Thai)		
Credit value of each pathway: 36 credits		
Minimum credit to be achieved at, or above, the level of the qualification: 24		
Mandatory units (credit value 27)		
Title	Credits	Level
Health and Safety in the kitchen	3	2
Safe food handling	3	2
Personal hygiene in the kitchen	3	2
Cutting and chopping techniques	3	2
Roasting and baking techniques	4	3
Frying and grilling techniques	4	3
Boiling and poaching techniques	4	3
Menu Planning	3	3
Optional units for pathway specialism: (Italian) credit value 9		
Title	Credits	Level
The history and ingredients of Italian cookery	3	3
The techniques of Italian cookery	3	3
Preparing an Italian meal	3	3
Optional units for pathway specialism: (French) credit value 9		
Title	Credits	Level
The history and ingredients of French cookery	3	3
The techniques of French cookery	3	3
Preparing a French meal	3	3
(This would be continued for each additional pathway).		

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Getting help

Visit the QCDA website to access

- Guidance materials <http://www.qcda.org.uk/19657.aspx>
- An interactive guide <http://www.qcda.org.uk/22678.aspx>
- The Ofqual website <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/51.aspx> will give you the latest on the regulatory arrangements for units and qualifications within the QCF
- The Federation of Awarding Bodies (<http://www.awarding.org.uk/public/qcf-capacity-building>) also provides information and contact details of people who can help

We're happy to offer you a FREE initial half hour consultation with one of our credit experts.

Contact us at, 0845 226 1712, info@stratagia.co.uk to discuss how we can help you.