

## Bitesize Briefing Progression Qualifications

### **What are Progression Qualifications?**

The National OCN Qualifications for Progression are a new and different type of qualification. They contain individual units of assessment, each having its own credit value (credit values are based on 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; therefore a 3 credit unit = 30 hours of learning).

In creating these new qualification, NOCN has remained focused on the profile if OCN learners while at the same time responding to the national agenda on skills and the current reform of the qualification framework.

### **How to use NOCN Qualifications for Progression**

The Qualification for Progression are at **Entry** (pre GCSE), **Level 1** (GCSE D-G equivalence), **Level 2** (GCSE A-C equivalence) and **Level 3** (A Level) and are available as an Award, Certificate or Diploma.

How many units a learner needs to complete to gain any of the qualifications above, depends on the level they are working at (see Rules of Combination below).

The qualifications can be achieved by completing the correct combination on **core** and **optional** units. The purpose of the qualifications is to allow flexibility to learners in selecting units that match their interests but which do not necessarily have to be in similar vocational areas, although this is also an option.

The **core** units can be used to develop skills in learning for life, work and personal development. The wide choice of **optional** units mean learners can dip into different vocational areas and build their own progression pathways. They are designed to support people to progress at work, to access further learning opportunities and to participate fully in their communities.

### **The Rules of Combination** (only Entry and Level 1 examples are given here)

To achieve full NOCN Qualifications for Progression, a learner must always achieve **some** credits from the Core and **can also combine** Core and Optional units.

**NOCN Entry Level Award for Progression 3 credits with 1 from the core**  
**NOCN Entry Level Certificate for Progression 9 credits with 3 from the core**

**NOCN Level 1 Award for Progression 9 credits with 3 from the core**  
**NOCN Level 1 Certificate for Progression 15 credits with 3 from the core**  
**NOCN Level 1 Diploma for Progression 24 credits with 6 from the core**

You might like to think of this as using 'lego' bricks to build a house. Imagine that there are white and red bricks. To give a house a sound base you need foundations – these are represented by white bricks (core units) and must be laid to keep the house standing. The walls of your house can then be made up with red bricks

(optional units) or if you want, further white bricks (core units). The bigger the house, the more bricks you need to lay!

## Some suggested pathways?

### **NOCN Entry 3 Level Award for Progression: 1 core unit – the Award at Entry Level**

**Core:** Assertiveness and Decision Making (3)  
3 unit credits, 30 glh (guided learning hours).

### **NOCN Entry 3 Level Certificate for Progression: 1 core and 2 optional – Cert**

**Core:** Demonstrating Speaking and Listening Skills (3)  
**Optional:** Introduction to Garden Maintenance Skills (3), Developing an Awareness of Soil Types and Garden Habitat (3).  
9 unit credits, 90 glh

**This pathway has a 'horticultural' focus.**

### **NOCN Level 1 Award for Progression:**

**Core:** Improving Own Learning and Performance (3)  
**Optional:** Using ICT and Computer Systems (3), Using Online Services (1), Using Spreadsheet Software (2)  
9 unit credits, 90 glh

### **NOCN Level 1 Certificate for Progression:**

**Core:** Improving Own Learning and Performance (3), Developing Personal Confidence and Self Awareness (3)  
**Optional:** Using ICT and Computer Systems (3), Using Online Services (1), Using Spreadsheet Software (2), Using the Internet (1), Using Word Processing Software (2)  
15 unit credits, 150 glh

***This pathway has an 'ICT' focus***

It is important to remember that with Progression Qualifications, there is no requirement to follow a particular 'subject area'.

Learners may wish to complete a range of units that have no relation to each other but which do interest the learner – a real 'mix and match' approach not available in other awarding bodies currently!