

Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill

Determination of Overall Level of Qualification of Clusters of Units of Competency

At the meeting of the Bills Committee on the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Bill held on 31 October 2006, the Education and Manpower Bureau was requested to illustrate, with examples, the determination of the overall level of qualification of clusters of units of competency (UOCs) as specified in paragraph 7.4 of Paper No. CB(2)196/06-07(02).

Principles on Determination of the Level of Clusters of UOCs

2. The first three Industry Training Advisory Committees established (for the Printing & Publishing, Watch & Clock and Hairdressing industries respectively) have initially developed different clusters of UOCs applicable to the implementation of “Recognition of Prior Learning” within their respective industries. As all these clusters comprise UOCs of the same level, it is unnecessary to determine the overall level by making reference to the weight of credit¹ values.

3. In future, if a particular industry develops one or several clusters of units by combining UOCs of different levels, it will be necessary to determine the overall level by making reference to the level of qualification with the greatest weight of credit values within the cluster. We propose that the credits of that level should account for **60% or above** of the total of the cluster of units concerned. The method of calculation is illustrated in the following two examples.

¹ 1 credit = 10 learning hours (including learning hours accumulated through training and/or at work).

Example 1: Cluster of UOCs in XXXX of the Printing & Publishing Industry (Level 4)

UOCs	Level	Credit	Weight (%)
UOC 1	4	9	30
UOC 2	4	9	30
UOC 3	3	6	20
UOC 4	3	6	20
Total	-	30	100

In the above cluster of UOCs, there are a total of 18 credits for the UOCs at Level 4 and 12 credits for those at Level 3. Overall speaking, the UOCs at Level 4 account for 60% of the total credits. Thus, the overall level of this cluster of units is Level 4.

Example 2: Cluster of UOCs in XXXX of the Watch & Clock Industry (Level 3)

UOCs	Level	Credit	Weight (%)
UOC 1	3	10	40
UOC 2	3	10	40
UOC 3	4	5	20
Total	-	25	100

In the above cluster of UOCs, there are a total of 20 credits for the UOCs at Level 3 and 5 credits for those at Level 4. Overall speaking, the UOCs at Level 3 account for 80% (over 60%) of the total credits. Thus, the overall level of this cluster of units is Level 3.