



Access to HE

GCSE Equivalent Schemes Handbook

**Section 1: Existing schemes from former
AVAs: OCNHIS & OCNKM**

**Section 2: Using NOCN Qualifications in
Progression**

Plus Quick Guide to the schemes

Section 1: Schemes of former AVAs OCNKM & OCNHIS

These schemes were formerly operated by the predecessor AVAs to OCN South East Region (OCN Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Sussex and OCN Kent & Medway). Last year of permitted use 2009-10.

1.1 OCN Kent & Medway

The units for the Kent & Medway schemes are available in OCNSER Workspace 'Home' in GCSE Equivalents or can be downloaded from our Access GCSE web pages.

Assessment Requirements for both English & Maths

To achieve either the GCSE Equivalents in English or Maths using the old OCNKM scheme the learners should experience time constrained assignments (phase tests, short exams) as part of their experience on the programme. As a minimum there should be one time constrained assignment under test conditions which relates to one or more of the units in the programme. No minimum length for these time constrained assignments is set but it is expected that at least 1 hours of such tests should contribute to the final assessment of all 4 units which make up the Maths or English Equivalents.

a) OCNKM English Equivalence

Choose any 4 units below to achieve 12 credits

Unit Title	Level	Credit	OCNSER Code
Speaking and Listening	Two	3	KB12KM003
Grammar and Punctuation	Two	3	FK22KM010
Writing and Redrafting	Two	3	FK22KM007
Response to Writing	Two	3	FC22KM002
Personal Writing	Two	3	FK22KM008
Total Credits (out of possible 15)		12	

b) OCNKM Maths Equivalence

Please note the units below have the same title and content as the NOCN Qualification in Progression units but these units are OCNSER AVA units for use within Access to HE Diplomas and they do NOT lead to the achievement of an NOCN qualification.

Unit Title (click on title to get unit)	Level	Credits	OCNSER Code	AVAD
Understanding Common Measures and Shapes	Two	3	HD40SE901	SER371
Understanding Data Handling and Probability	Two	3	HD42SE901	SER372
Using Algebra and Graphs	Two	3	HD42SE902	SER373
Using Calculations	Two	3	HD42SE903	SER374
Total Credits		12		

1.2 OCN Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Sussex

The units for the Hampshire, Isle of Wight & Sussex schemes are available in OCN SER Workspace 'Home' in GCSE Equivalents or can be downloaded from our GCSE Equivalent web pages.

GCSE English Equivalence Scheme				
Unit title	Unit code	OPUS code	Level	Credit value
Writing for different purposes	FC1/2/SE/008	BYX061	Two	3
Oral Communication	HD2/2/SE/003	BYX063	Two	3
Reading and Thinking	HD3/2/SE/018	BYX065	Two	3
Technical Skills for Writing	HD3/2/SE/019	BYX067	Two	3
GCSE Science Equivalence Scheme				
Unit title	Unit code	OPUS code	Level	Credit value
Practical Skills	RA3/2/SE/004	BYX055	Two	3
Life Processes	RH3/2/SE/049	BYX052	Two	3
Physical Processes	RC1/2/SE/008	BYX049	Two	3
Chemical processes	RD1/2/SE/031	BYX046	Two	3
GCSE Mathematics Equivalence Scheme				
Unit title	Unit code	OPUS code	Level	Credit value
Algebra	RB3/2/SE/007	BYX057	Two	3
Foundation Maths	RB1/2/SE/039	BYX058	Two	3
Shape and Space	RB4/2/SE/002	BYX059	Two	3
Statistics	RB7/2/SE/007	BYX060	Two	3

There are no specific assessment requirements other than evidence to demonstrate that all assessment criteria have been met.

1.3 Guidelines for both OCNHIS & OCNKM schemes

For both schemes centres must ensure that the relevant units are contained within their A1 Units lists and rules of combination for each Access Diploma offered¹.

At the start of the Access Course centres must indicate in the 'Courses Running Form' that they intend to offer a GCSE Equivalent course and as required indicate which scheme is being used.

¹ For 2009-10 this can be the relevant approved set of units from the former OCNKM or OCNHIS schemes – see our website for further details

Section Two: Access to HE GCSE Equivalents Using NOCN Qualifications in Progression

This scheme can be used in 2009-10

1. Outline of the scheme

In this GCSE Equivalent option centres must register the learners against the relevant NOCN Qualification in Progression² (QiP) and pay the appropriate registration fee. This is a distinct and separate process from Access learner registration. Please contact the OCNSER Access Office for further information.

Students will receive an NOCN Qualification in Progression certificate upon successful completion. Centres may also request a separate OCNSER GCSE equivalent certificate upon payment of the relevant additional fee.

Credits achieved via the NOCN Qualifications in Progression do NOT automatically count towards the achievement of the Access to HE Diploma as they are part of a separate qualification. Centres should ensure that students are able to gain up to 60 credits within their Access Diploma without the inclusion of any Level 2 credits gained via these additional NOCN qualifications unless it is intended to use the APCL process outlined below.

2. Units from the NOCN QiPs used in the GCSE Equivalence schemes

2.1 GCSE Equivalence for English

Figure 1

Unit Title	Level	Credits	NOCN Code	QCA Code
Demonstrating Speaking & Listening	Two	3	HD3/2/QQ/012	J/103/0109
Improving Punctuation & Grammar Skills	Two	3	HD3/2/QQ/014	L/103/0130
Using Writing for Meaning	Two	3	HD3/2/QQ/017	R/103/0162
Improving Spelling Skills	Two	3	HD3/2/QQ/015	Y/103/0132
Total Credits		12		

2.2 GCSE Equivalence for Maths

Figure 2

Unit Title	Level	Credits	NOCN Code	QCA Code
Understanding Common Measures and Shape	Two	3	HD4/2/QQ/021	Y/500/4817
Understanding Data Handling and Probability	Two	3	HD4/2/QQ/022	D/500/4818
Using Algebra and Graphs	Two	3	HD4/2/QQ/024	K/500/5664
Using Calculations	Two	3	HD4/2/QQ/025	Y/500/4820
Total Credits		12		

² This will be a listed qualification aim on the LSC Learning Aims Database

3. Details of the NOCN Qualifications in Progression

3.1 Using the Award sized qualification

The NOCN Qualification in Progression Award can be used to deliver a single GCSE equivalent. Please note that there are 72 guided learning hours (glh) for the achievement of 9 credits for this qualification but the OCNSER GCSE Equivalents are based upon the achievement of 12 credits. OCNSER would not expect a centre to offer any more than 72 glh for such a course. Access learners could reasonably be expected to achieve the 12 credits within the 72 glh plus independent study.

- **NOCN Level 2 Award in Progression (QCF)**

The learner must achieve 9 credits (72 guided learning hours). A minimum of 6 credits must be achieved at Level 2 with a maximum of 3 credits being achieved at Level 1. 3 credits must be achieved from the Mandatory Group A - Core Skills at either Level 2 or Level 1.

3.2 Using the Certificate sized qualification

Where a centre wishes to offer some students two OCNSER Access to HE Equivalents the NOCN Qualification in Progression Certificate can be used. This requires the achievement of 24 credits with 192 glh and therefore can accommodate two OCNSER GCSE Equivalents.

- **NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Progression (QCF)**

The learner must achieve 24 credits (192 guided learning hours). A minimum of 18 credits must be achieved at Level 2 with a maximum of 6 credits being achieved at Level 1. 6 credits must be achieved from the Mandatory Group A - Core Skills at either Level 2 or Level 1.

Figure 3

Qualification Title	Credits	GLH	Accreditation number
NOCN Level 2 Award in Progression (QCF)	90	72	500/1942/9
NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Progression (QCF)	240	192	500/1953/3

4. Assessment Requirements

4.1 Standard NOCN Requirements

NOCN assessment regulations apply to the achievement of these qualifications. For further information see our web pages at <http://www.ocnser.org.uk/for-learning-providers/quality-assurance> and contact your centre's OCNSER Business Development Manager and/or OCNSER Quality Reviewer, contact details can be found at <http://www.ocnser.org.uk/contact-us>.

Each NOCN unit listed above has a list of optional and prescribed methods of assessment on the final page of the unit description.

4.2 Additional OCNSER Access to HE GCSE Equivalent Assessment Requirements

These additional requirements are for the achievement of GCSE Equivalence status which is granted by OCNSER to the achievement of 12 credits per equivalent, as outlined in this handbook. Learners will achieve the NOCN Qualifications in Progression separately as identified above.

4.2.1 Centre-devised marked course work assessments:

These can be used to provide evidence for the assessment criteria of all units. Portfolios of student achievement mapped against each assessment criteria in each unit should be compiled for the purposes of both internal and external verification.

4.2.2 Written tests:

- At least two tests, of at least 40 minutes duration, must be set and marked internally and taken under examination conditions.
- The centre must relate the contents of the tests to learning outcomes in at least two of the units.
- At least one learning outcome from the two selected units must be tested across the two tests.
- Centres may choose to assess more than two units via these tests and may opt to offer more than two tests.
- An element of course work assessment is strongly recommended in addition to assessment via the tests.
- Centres must assess all of the unit contents via either appropriately set tests or a combination of these with additional course work as required.

5. Claiming the Access GCSE Equivalence Certificate for Students using the NOCN Qualification in Progression

5.1 Option where the credits achieved do NOT count towards the achievement of an Access to HE Diploma

Successful students will receive an NOCN qualification certificate separately for achievement of the appropriate Award or Certificate in Progression. However if centres wish to claim GCSE Equivalence status for this achievement then the relevant box, claiming GCSE status must be completed in the Access to HE Diploma RAC (see figure 4 below).

A list of those students using the NOCN Qualifications in Progression must be submitted with the RAC and Exam/Final Assessment Board minutes to the OCNSER Access office in Canterbury.

OCNSER will then print additional certificates of GCSE equivalence in the relevant subject(s) for each learner. The current additional fee for this will be applied and centres will be invoiced accordingly.

Figure 4: Box in RAC to be completed

GCSE Equivalent	Achieved Y/N
Mathematics	
English	
Science	

5.2 Option where the credits achieved **DO** count towards the achievement of an Access to HE Diploma

Where a centre wishes to include Level 2 credit achieved via an NOCN Qualification in Progression within an Access Diploma, the following APCL³ procedure MUST be followed.

- i.) Centres must have previously ensured that the relevant OCNSER GCSE Equivalent units in Maths and/or English⁴ are included within the Rules of Combination for each Access to HE Diploma they offer. If necessary an [‘A7 Amendment to Existing Access Course’](#) form will need to be submitted to OCNSER.
- ii.) Students must have achieved their NOCN Qualification in Progression, taking the units specified below in this guide, **prior to** the Exam/Final Assessment Board for the Access Diploma.
- iii.) The centre must use the APL process to map the QiP units against the OCNSER GCSE Equivalent scheme units⁵. Students will then be able to achieve these units via APL as part of their Access Diplomas⁶. Up to 12 Level 2 credits can be achieved in this way⁷.

A student using this process will have achieved the required units in the Access Diploma via APL. This should be recorded on the RAC in the usual way. The box claiming the GCSE equivalent for English for each learner on the RAC must also be ticked.

At the point of certification the student will receive a certificate stating that s/he has achieved an equivalent to GCSE Equivalent in English or Maths and the units will be listed on his/her credit transcript.

³ Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning

⁴ For 2009-10 this can be the relevant approved set of units from the former OCNKM or OCNHIS schemes – see our website for further details

⁵ For 2009-10 this can be to any one of the existing GCSE equivalent schemes still in use, i.e. the former OCNKM or OCNHIS schemes

⁶ The credit transcript will indicate that these units were achieved via APL.

⁷ Centres must ensure that they follow LSC funding rules for glh per learner for full or part-time Access provision, i.e. glh undertaken on an NOCN QiP cannot be included within the glh for the Access to HE Diploma as they are separately funded.

Quick Guide to OCNSER GCSE Equivalents for Access

For further details see 'Access to HE GCSE Equivalent Scheme Handbook 2009-10' – published on our Access GCSE Equivalents web pages

GCSE Equivalent inside the glh for an Access Course using existing OCNSER schemes

At the start of the year

- Choose which GCSE Equivalent Scheme you are going to use
- Ensure that the relevant GCSE equivalent units from your chosen scheme are included within the A1 Unit lists for the relevant Access to HE Diplomas at your centre.
- Notify OCNSER Access Office that you are going to offer GCSE equivalent(s) using the start of year 'Courses Running' form

At the end of the year

- Ensure that the correct units for the GCSE Equivalent have been achieved for your students.
- Include the evidence for external moderation visit
- On RACs tick the relevant GCSE Equivalent box(es) and return to OCNSER Access office with any required supporting evidence, e.g. APL forms etc.(only if APL is used).

GCSE Equivalents outside the glh for an Access Course using NOCN Qualifications in Progression

At the start of the year

- Notify OCNSER that you intend to register students on the appropriate NOCN Qualification in Progression using the 'Courses Running' form.
- RACs and other documentation will then be dealt with by our Addlestone Office in Surrey.

Before the Exam/Final Assessment Board

- Ensure you have had a visit from your OCNSER Quality Reviewer and that achievement of the relevant units is confirmed

At the end of the year

- On RACs tick the relevant GCSE Equivalent box(es) and return to OCNSER Access office with any required supporting evidence, e.g. APCL forms for claiming inclusion of credits into Access Diploma.