

National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)

The Government of India introduced the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) in 2013. The NSQF is responsible for organising the qualifications through a series of levels of data, knowledge, aptitude and skills. This topic comes under the section of Indian Polity in the General Studies paper 2 of the [UPSC Syllabus](#). The students preparing for the IAS Exam or any other Government Exam must be aware of this topic.

The levels designed by the NSQF can be determined based on the learning and knowledge outcomes possessed by the student/apprentice. According to the NSQF, the student must possess these skills despite whether they were procured through non-formal, formal or informal learning.

What is NSQF?

The NSQF is a quality assurance framework. It is a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill framework that will provide for multiple pathways, horizontal as well as vertical, both within vocational education and vocational training, and among vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education, thus linking one level of learning to another higher level.

National Skills Qualifications Framework Provisions

The NSQF linkage of different levels allows the students to acquire desired levels of competency, job market transitions and allow further acquisitions of added skills to further enhance their competencies with suitable time. The NSQF will also provide the following:

- International Equivalency: This will be achieved by providing national policies for identifying skill proficiency and competencies at different levels.
- NSQF will also provide facilities for multiple entry and exit between skill training, vocational education, job markets, general and technical education.
- Provisions of progressive pathways which are within the framework of the skill qualifications.
- Provide opportunities that encourage lifelong training and education as well as skill development.
- Tie-ups with the industries and markets to understand the job market requirements.
- Creating a mechanism that is credible, transparent and accountable for the skill development over multiple sectors.
- Providing better potential that recognises early learning.

National Skills Qualifications Framework Objectives

- Accommodation of the diversity found in the Education and Training Systems of the country.
- Allowing the development of a set of qualifications for every level which are accepted all over the nation.
- Providing a structure for the maintenance and development of all the progressive pathways. These pathways allow access to qualifications and support people to move effortlessly between different sectors of training and education as well as between these sectors and the labour market.
- Giving individuals options to progress through training and education as well as helping them gain recognition for their previous experiences and learnings.
- Enhancing and supporting the international and national mobility of people with qualifications that are compliant with NSQF through enhanced recognition of the value and comparability of Indian qualifications.

UPSC questions related to National Skills Qualifications Framework

What is the National Skill Qualification Framework Level 4?

Level	Expected Level of Competency as defined under NSQF	Proposed Academic Equivalence
Level – 1	Responsibility nil; Constant instructions and close supervision are necessary.	Pertains to school level education
Level – 2	Responsibility nil; Constant instructions and close supervision are necessary.	Pertains to school level education
Level - 3	Constant instructions and close supervision are necessary. Limited responsibilities for some work.	Pertains to school level education
Level – 4	Responsible for their work and learning	Pertains to school level education
Level - 5	Responsible for their work and learning along with some responsibility for other's work and learning.	Diploma
Level - 6	Full responsibilities for others and their own work and learning.	Advance Diploma
Level - 7	Full responsibilities for a group and their own work. Responsible for the overall output of the group	Graduation
Level - 8	Exercise management and supervision in the context of work/study having unpredictable changes, responsible for the development of self and others.	Honours at Under-Graduate level
Level - 9	Decision-making responsibility for complicated technical tasks. It also may involve unpredictable work/study situations.	Masters
Level - 10	Responsible for strategic decisions in unpredictable complex situations of work/study.	Doctoral

How many domains are described in each level of the NSQF?

- In the 10 levels of NSQF, each level is described by a statement of learning outcomes in five domains:
 - Process
 - Professional knowledge
 - Professional skill
 - Core skill
 - Responsibility
- The domains of NSQF are called level descriptors.

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