

The Level Descriptors for the Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF)

Level	Level 1 EQF	Level 1 MQF
Knowledge	Basic general knowledge;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. acquires basic general knowledge related to the immediate environment and expressed through a variety of simple tools and contexts as an entry point to lifelong learning; 2. knows and understands the steps needed to complete simple tasks and activities in familiar environments; 3. is aware and understands basic tasks and instructions; 4. understands basic textbooks;
Skills	Basic skills required to carry out simple tasks;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has the ability to apply basic knowledge and carry out a limited range of simple tasks; 2. has basic repetitive communication skills to complete well defined routine tasks and identifies whether actions have been accomplished; 3. follows instructions and be aware of consequences of basic actions for self and others;
Competences	Work or study under direct supervision in a structured context;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applies basic knowledge and skills to do simple repetitive and familiar tasks; 2. participates in and takes basic responsibility for the action of simple tasks; 3. activities are carried out under guidance and within simple defined timeframes; 4. acquires and applies basic key competences at this level;
Learning¹ outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has basic knowledge and understanding of textbooks and simple tasks while relating to the immediate environment 2. follows instructions and completes repetitive simple tasks in familiar contexts and under a quality controlled system; 3. communicates basic information in familiar repetitive contexts; 4. assesses and ensures that assigned tasks have been completed effectively; 5. acquires and applies key competences to defined actions; 6. takes some responsibility for completing simple tasks and exercises limited autonomy;

¹ The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:
1.

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Level	Level 2 EQF	Level 2 MQF
Knowledge	Basic factual knowledge of a field of work or study;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. possess good knowledge of a field of work or study; 2. is aware of and interprets types of information and ideas; 3. understands facts and procedures in the application of basic tasks and instructions; 4. selects and uses relevant knowledge to accomplish specific actions for self and others;
Skills	Basic cognitive and practical skills required to use relevant information in order to carry out tasks and to solve routine problems using simple rules and tools;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has the ability to demonstrate a range of skills by carrying out a range of complex tasks within a specified field of work or study; 2. communicates basic information; 3. ensures tasks are carried out effectively;
Competences	Work or study under supervision with some autonomy;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applies factual knowledge and practical skills to do some structured tasks; 2. ensures one acts pro-actively; 3. carries out activities under limited supervision and with limited responsibility in a quality controlled context; 4. acquires and applies basic key competences at this level;
Learning² outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands and uses good knowledge for tasks, procedures or a field of work or study; 2. follows instructions and completes a range of well-defined tasks; 3. communicates basic information in unfamiliar contexts; 4. selects and uses information for specified tasks and be pro-active; 5. acquires and applies key competences to a range of actions; 6. takes responsibility and exercises autonomy in well-defined tasks under a quality controlled system;

² The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:
2.

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Level	Level 3 EQF	Level 3 MQF
Knowledge	knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands the relevancy of theoretical knowledge and information related to one field of work or study; 2. assesses, evaluates and interprets facts establishing basic principles and concepts in a particular field of work or study; 3. understands facts and procedures in the application of more complex tasks and instructions; 4. selects and uses relevant knowledge acquired on one's own initiative to accomplish specific actions for self and others;
Skills	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to accomplish tasks and solve problems by selecting and applying basic methods, tools, materials and information;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates a range of developed skills to carry out more than one complex task effectively and in unfamiliar and unpredictable contexts; 2. communicates more complex information; 3. solves basic problems by applying basic methods, tools, materials and information given in a restricted learning environment;
Competences	Take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study adapt own behaviour to circumstances in solving problems;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applies knowledge and skills to do some tasks systematically; 2. adapts own behavior to circumstances in solving problems by participating pro-actively in structured learning environments; 3. uses own initiative with established responsibility and autonomy, but supervised in quality controlled learning environments normally within a craftsmanship environment; 4. acquires key competences at this level as a basis for lifelong learning;
Learning³ outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands theoretical knowledge and information related to complex procedures in a field of work or study; 2. follows instructions and carries out complex tasks systematically and in unfamiliar and unpredictable contexts; 3. communicates complex information in unfamiliar and unpredictable contexts; 4. assesses, evaluates and interprets facts related to a field of work or study and applies basic problem solving techniques; 5. acquires and applies key competences as a basis for life-long learning;

³ The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:
3.

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	6. Autonomy and Responsibility	6. takes agreed responsibility for completing complex tasks, and interacts with the immediate environment and in defined actions at one's own initiative;
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Level	Level 4 EQF	Level 4 MQF
Knowledge	Factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work or study;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands broad theoretical knowledge and analysis of information related to a field of work or study; 2. understands facts and establishes basic principles in broad contexts within a field of work or study; 3. applies facts and procedures in broad contexts within a defined field of work or study; 4. selects and analysis theoretical knowledge in broad contexts within a specific field of work or study;
Skills	A range of cognitive and practical skills required to generate solutions to specific problems in a field of work or study;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates acquired knowledge and the ability to apply a range of technical or academic skills to carry out multiple complex tasks; 2. communicates theoretical and technical information in a work or learning environment; 3. generates solutions to specific problems within a field of work or study;
Competences	<p>Exercise self-management within the guidelines of work or study contexts that are usually predictable, but are subject to change;</p> <p>Supervise the routine work of others, take some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of work or study activities;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applies knowledge and skills to perform qualitative and quantitative tasks that require technical capacity normally associated with a technician's competence; 2. supervises the quality and quantity of work of self and others' under quality assured structures, with responsibility and autonomy; 3. demonstrates an advanced level of key competences at this level as a basis for higher education;
Learning⁴ outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands and analyses broad theoretical, practical and technical knowledge related to a field of work or study; 2. follows instructions and carries out defined theoretical, complex and technical tasks; 3. communicates theoretical and technical information in a work or learning context; 4. interacts with and generates solutions to problems within the immediate environment of a given field of work or study; 5. applies key competences to defined actions and to a technical or academic field of work or learning context;

⁴ The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:

4.

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		6. exercises autonomy and takes responsibility for defined qualitative and quantitative tasks of self and others by completing complex tasks in a broad context under quality assured mechanisms;
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Level	Level 5 EQF	Level 5 MQF
Knowledge	Comprehensive, specialized, factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work or study and an awareness of the boundary of that knowledge;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands knowledge in a field of study that builds upon advanced general secondary education and is typically at a level supported by advanced textbooks leading to further studies to complete the first cycle; ; 2. develops strategic and creative responses in researching solutions to well defined concrete and abstract problems; 3. makes judgments based on knowledge of relevant social and ethical issues;
Skills	A comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills required to develop creative solutions to abstract problems;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates transfer of theoretical and practical knowledge, in creating solutions to problems; 2. conveys ideas in a well structured and coherent way to peers, supervisors and clients using qualitative and quantitative information; 3. has the ability to identify and use data to formulate responses to well-defined concrete and abstract problems; 4. evaluates own learning and identifies learning needs necessary to undertake further learning;
Competences	<p>Exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities where there is unpredictable change;</p> <p>Review and develop performance of self and others;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. manages projects independently that require problem solving techniques where there are many factors, some of which interact and lead to unpredictable outcomes; 2. shows creativity in managing projects, manages people and reviews performance of self and others; train others and develop team performance; 3. expresses a comprehensive internalized personal world view reflecting engagement of solidarity with others; 4. has the learning skills to undertake further studies with some autonomy;
Learning⁵ outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands advanced textbooks which may lead to further academic or vocational learning and, researches solutions to abstract problems; 2. demonstrates operational capacity and management skills using creativity;

⁵ The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:
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	<p>3. Communication Skills;</p> <p>4. Judgemental Skills;</p> <p>5. Learning Skills; and</p> <p>6. Autonomy and Responsibility</p>	<p>3. interacts with others to convey abstract and concrete solutions to problems in a field of work or study;</p> <p>4. formulates practical and theoretical responses to abstract and concrete problems and makes judgments on social and ethical issues;</p> <p>5. evaluates own learning and can improve key competences for further learning, and promotes team training;</p> <p>6. is responsible for the effective and efficient management of projects and people within agreed timeframes;</p>
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Level	Level 6 EQF	Level 6 MQF
Knowledge	Advanced knowledge of a field of work or study involving a critical understanding of theories and principles;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understands knowledge that builds upon advanced general secondary education and typically includes some aspects that will be informed by knowledge of the forefront of their field of study; 2. uses detailed theoretical and practical knowledge which is at the forefront of a field of study and involves critical understanding of theories and principles; 3. understands methods and tools in a complex and specialized field of work or study and innovation in terms of methods used; 4. makes judgments based on relevant social and ethical issues that arise in a field of work or study;
Skills	Advanced skills demonstrating mastery and innovation required to solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialized field of work or study;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. applies knowledge and understanding in a manner that indicates a professional approach to work or study and has skills typically demonstrated through devising and sustaining arguments and solving problems; 2. communicates ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences using a range of techniques involving qualitative and quantitative information; 3. has the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to inform judgments that include reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues; 4. devises and sustains arguments to solve problems; 5. consistently evaluates own learning and identify learning needs;
Competences	<p>Manage complex technical or professional activities or projects, taking responsibility for decision-making in unpredictable work or study contexts;</p> <p>Take responsibility for</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates administrative design, resource and team management and is responsible for work or study contexts that are unpredictable and require that complex problems are solved; 2. shows creativity and initiative in developing projects in management processes, manage and train people to develop team performance; 3. has developed those learning skills that are necessary to

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	managing professional development of individuals and groups;	continue to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy;
Learning 6outcomes	1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility	1. understands professional theoretical and practical knowledge in a specialized field of work or study; 2. demonstrates innovative theoretical and practical responses to work or study contexts; 3. communicates ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences using a range of techniques involving qualitative and quantitative information to sustain arguments; 4. makes professional judgments on social and ethical issues within the area of specialization, masters problem solving skills, and evaluates the management of projects and people; 5. assesses own learning and can specialize in one or more key competences for further learning; 6. is responsible for the management of creative and innovative projects and the team's performance;

Level	Level 7 EQF	Level 7 MQF
Knowledge	Highly specialised some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study as the basis for original thinking and/or research; Critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields;	1. has comprehensive knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that knowledge typically associated with Bachelor's level; 2. uses specialized or multi-disciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge some of which is at the forefront of a field of study. This knowledge forms the basis of originality in developing and/or applying ideas;
Skills	Specialized problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields;	1. demonstrates specialized or multi-disciplinary knowledge that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of one's knowledge and judgments; 2. can communicate to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously work or study related conclusions and knowledge which may be the outcome of research, self-study or experience; 3. performs critical evaluations and analysis with incomplete or limited information to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments, and to produce original research; 4. develops new skills in response to emerging knowledge

⁶ The learning outcomes in all the MQF level descriptors have the following order:
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		and techniques and demonstrates leadership skills and innovation in complex and unpredictable work and study contexts;
Competences	<p>Manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches;</p> <p>Take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of teams;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. creates a research-based diagnosis to problems by integrating knowledge from new or interdisciplinary fields and makes judgments with incomplete or limited information; 2. manages people and projects and demonstrates the ability to respond to the fast changing business environment; 3. demonstrates autonomy in the direction of learning and a high level of understanding of learning processes; 4. has the learning skills to allow continuation to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous;
Learning 7 outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has comprehensive specialized or multi-disciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge which forms the basis of original research, which may contribute to social and ethical issues; 2. demonstrates capability in using knowledge and skills, to adapt to the fast changing business environment and to manage people and projects efficiently; 3. communicates with specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously conclusions and knowledge which may be the outcome of original research, self-study or experience; 4. performs critical evaluations and analysis with incomplete or limited information to solve problems in new or unfamiliar contexts, and to produce original research; 5. makes assessments of personal continuous professional development, takes initiative to undertake self-directed study and may proceed to further specialisation; 6. is accountable and responsible for the original research within a personal social responsibility and/or business context, for one's operations and for adapting the management of people and projects reflecting the dynamic nature of the environment in which one operates;

Level	Level 8 EQF	Level 8 MQF
Knowledge	Knowledge at the most advanced frontier of a field of work or study and at the	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has a systematic understanding of a highly specialized field of study which builds upon a specialized or multi-disciplinary knowledge and understanding;

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	interface between fields;	2. extends or redefine existing knowledge and/or professional practice;
Skills	The ability to apply the most advanced and specialized skills and techniques including synthesis and evaluation to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation and to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates mastery in skills such as the selection and analysis of research, writing, design, development and sustainability of the argument manifested in innovative scholarly research; 2. responds to technological, social and cultural issues and addresses the needs of a knowledge-based society; 3. communicates expertise to a wide audience including peers and the general public using different methods including national and international publications, and participates in specialist fora; 4. demonstrates expertise in critical evaluations and analysis with incomplete or limited information to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments, and to produce original research;
Competences	Competence at the forefront in work or study including research contexts demonstrating substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly or professional integrity and sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrates authority in a specialized field of work or study and makes judgments involving a multitude of interacting factors; 2. promotes social, scientific and ethical advancement through actions; 3. has a sustained commitment in the development of new ideas;
Learning⁸ outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and Understanding; 2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding; 3. Communication Skills; 4. Judgemental Skills; 5. Learning Skills; and 6. Autonomy and Responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. has theoretical and practical expertise in a specialized field of knowledge which may contribute to social and ethical issues in a national and international dimension; 2. demonstrates leadership and innovation in mastering research in work and study contexts; 3. communicates expertise to a wide audience including peers and the general public using different methods including national and international publications, and participates in specialist fora; 4. demonstrates expertise in critical evaluations and analysis with incomplete or limited information to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments, and to produce original research; 5. has a sustained commitment to generate new ideas and innovative projects related to technological, cultural and social development; 6. is responsible for the leadership of a number of specialized projects and an authority in a specialized field of work or study;

8.