



**Making sense of QCF/ASL  
developments**

## What is Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL) ?

- Mandatory component of the 14 - 19 Diploma qualification
- ASL qualifications **MUST** be the same level as the Diploma or above
- **Additional Learning** allows learners to personalise learning to meet their individual needs, interests and aspirations (**breath**)
- **Specialist Learning** allows learners to add **depth** to their learning (linked to Principal Learning)

## Additional and Specialist Learning Catalogue

- ASL catalogue (list of approved ASL qualifications across all lines of learning/levels) found on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ), 500+ qualifications
- Catalogue regularly updated: now version 11 (May), v12 (August)
- ASL qualifications **MUST** be valid combinations, check QCDA validator
- Always check ASL qualifications start and end dates in line with the learners Diploma programme



## ASL: GLH and Qualification options

- ASL minimum guided learning hours applies as follows:-

Foundation Diploma (Level 1)=120 GLH

Higher Diploma (Level 2)=180 GLH

Advanced Diploma (Level 3)=360 GLH

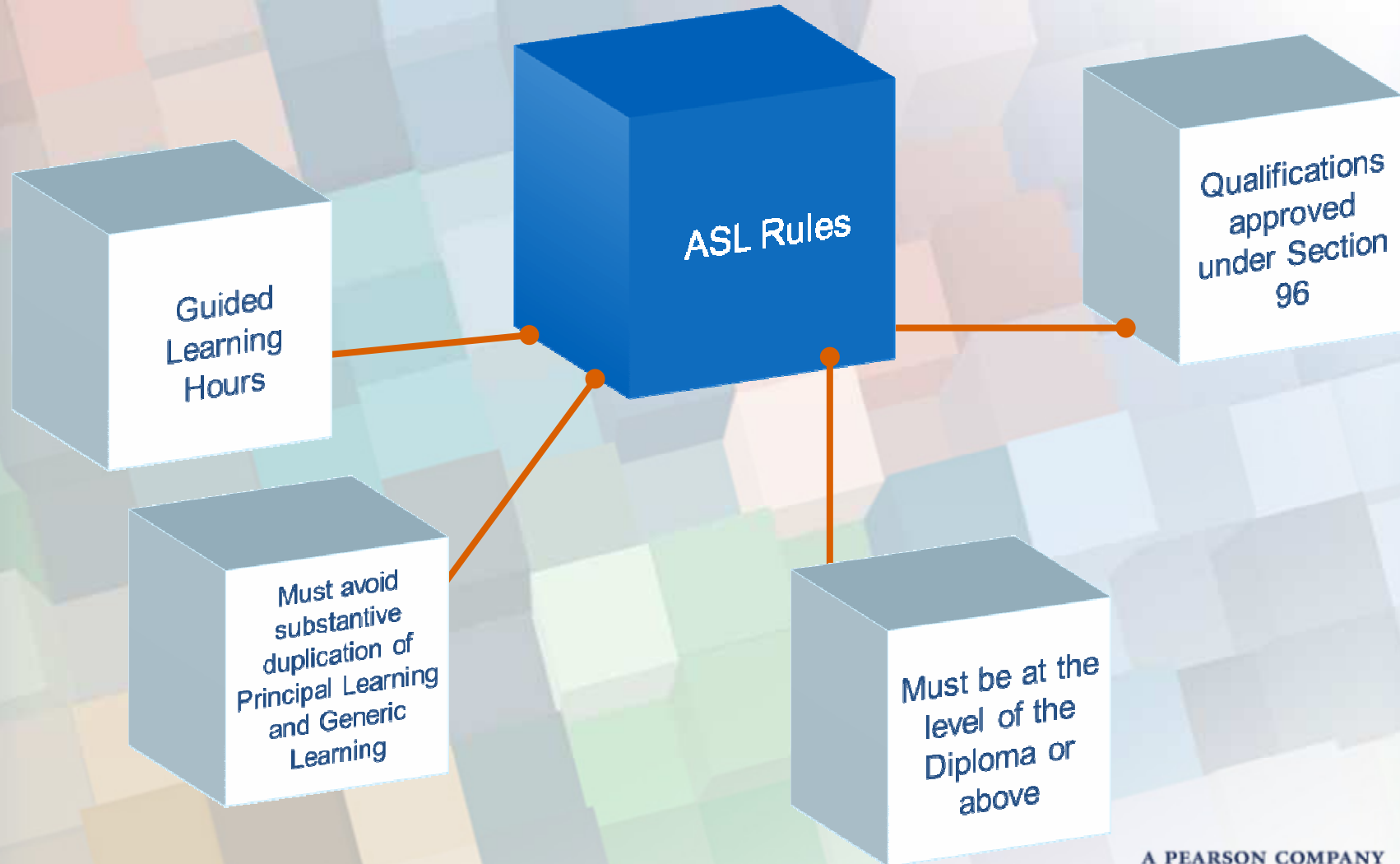
### **NB Maximum glh now flexible**

- Some ASL qualification examples:- BTECs, GCSE, GCEs, full listing on ASL catalogue



## Additional and Specialist Learning opportunities

- ASL key to constructing personalised learning programmes
- Plan ASL across consortia to maximise expertise, opportunities and access to additional resources, facilities, technology
- Extension to curriculum provision
- Progression into employment with training, full time further/higher education



## What is the Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF) ?

- New way of recognising achievement
- Through the award of credit
- For units and qualifications

## Why the QCF ?

Currently a range of different qualifications:-

- Level ?
- Size ?
- Content ?

Aim of the new framework is to help address this as:-

- Easier to understand
- Measure

## How ?

### Every unit and qualification

- Has a credit value (one credit represents 10 learning hours which includes supervised and independent study)
- a Level (ranging from Entry to Level 8)
- 3 sizes (Award, Certificate, Diploma)

## Benefits

### Learners:

- Choice and flexibility
- Build up credit(s) at own pace
- Transfer of credit(s) between qualifications
- Personalise learning

### Learning Providers:

- Flexible programmes
- Retention, achievement and progression

### For Employers:

- Easier to measure
- Makes training options clearer

## QCF sizes and levels



## Using BTECs as an ASL qualification

- QCF BTEC qualifications made up of units, each unit is allocated credits and guided learning hours (glh)
- Each QCF BTEC qualification is sized in terms of the number of credits (not units as with the National Qualification Framework, NQF)
- For example; 5 credit units have 30 glh and 10 credit units 60 glh
- Credit is based on learning time (supervised and independent study)
- Glh continues to be used for planning and funding purposes in addition to being key to ASL



## QCF BTEC Level 2/Firsts revised titles with equivalences from September 2010

### Level 2 BTEC Firsts (NQF)

Level 2 BTEC First Diploma  
6 units (360 GLH) = 4 GCSEs A\*-C

Level 2 BTEC First Certificate  
3 units (180 GLH) = 2 GCSEs A\*-C

### Level 2 BTEC Firsts (QCF)

Level 2 BTEC Diploma  
60 credits (360 GLH) = 4 GCSEs A\*-C

Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate  
30 credits (180 GLH) = 2 GCSEs A\*-C

Level 2 BTEC Certificate  
15 credits (90 GLH) = 1 GCSE A\*-C

## ASL: How could this work in practice ? Practical Activity 1

### Collaborative ASL Curriculum Planning (15 minutes)

Working in groups having considered the advantages of collaborative curriculum planning for ASL provision, list the following on the flip chart:-

- Challenges of collaborative curriculum planning
- Protocols, procedures and systems that need to be in place to overcome the challenges
- Opportunities presented by collaborative curriculum planning
- Feedback to the wider group

## ASL: How could this work in practice ? Practical Activity 2

### The ASL Catalogue on NDAQ (5 minutes)

- Barred qualifications
- QCF qualifications
- Accessing advice on timetabling

## Some useful websites

### Edexcel Diploma website

[www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/Pages/default.aspx)

### Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS)

[www.diploma-aggregation-service.co.uk](http://www.diploma-aggregation-service.co.uk)

### National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ)

<http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx>

### QCDA Diploma validator

<http://diplomavalidator.qcda.gov.uk/>

### UCAS (for Level 3 Advanced Diploma UCAS points)

[www.ucas.com/students/ucas\\_tariff/tarifftables](http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff/tarifftables)

**Thank You**

**Any Questions ?**

