

Grading criteria describe what a learner must attain to achieve a particular grade for an award at a particular level. The following tables outline the grading criteria for QQI awards at levels 1 - 6.

Grading Criteria for Awards at level 1 - level 3

Grading Criteria	Successful		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	The learner has achieved the learning outcomes for the award in a structured and supported learning setting. The outcomes have been achieved with <i>significant support</i> and <i>direction</i> from the assessor, but the learner has demonstrated <i>sustentative achievement</i> on their own.	The learner has achieved the learning outcomes for the award in a <i>structured</i> and <i>supported setting</i> with <i>clear direction</i> from the assessor. The learner has demonstrated <i>some autonomy</i> of action and has taken <i>limited responsibility</i> for the activities and for generating evidence.	The learner has achieved the learning outcomes for the award with <i>some supervision</i> and <i>direction</i> . The learner has demonstrated <i>autonomy of action</i> and has taken <i>responsibility</i> for generating appropriate evidence.

Grading Criteria for awards at Level 4 - Level 6

Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>A Pass indicates that the learner has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ achieved the learning outcomes as outlined in the minor award - a pass is the minimum acceptable standard ▪ used the language of the vocational/specialised area competently ▪ attempted to apply the theory and concepts appropriately ▪ provided sufficient evidence which has relevance and clarity. 	<p>A Merit indicates that the learner has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ achieved the learning outcomes as outlined in the minor award - a merit implies a good standard has been achieved ▪ used the language of the vocational/specialised area with a degree of fluency ▪ expressed and developed ideas clearly ▪ demonstrated initiative, evaluation and analytical skills ▪ presented coherent and comprehensive evidence. 	<p>A Distinction indicates that the learner has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ achieved the learning outcomes as outlined in the minor award - a distinction implies that an excellent standard has been achieved ▪ used the language of the vocational/specialised area fluently and confidently ▪ demonstration-depth understanding of the subject matter ▪ demonstrated a high level of initiative, evaluation skills ▪ demonstrated analytical and reflective thinking ▪ expressed and developed ideas clearly, systematically and comprehensively ▪ presented coherent, detailed and focused evidence