FOUNDATION LEVEL OR ACCESS 3: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

FOUNDATION LEVEL	ACCESS 3
Same: • entitlement to foreign language learning. • aims • levels of performance to be achieved The programmes should both: • be useful and worthwhile • ensure continuity, progression and development serve as a pathway into the wider framework • develop communicative competence in speaking, reading, listening (and writing) • cover personal, social, transactional and vocation language contexts Assessment for both: • should arise out of normal class work. • may be subject to internal and external moderation.	
A two-year course counting 4 credit points towards SGA at Access 3.	One, two or three units over one, two or more years, each worth 1 credit towards SGA at Access 3.
Speaking is assessed internally, including a final assessment towards the end of the course. Reading, Listening and Writing are externally assessed at the end of the course.	There are no external exams. Speaking Reading and Listening are internally assessed during each unit. Writing skills are developed during the programme but not assessed unless there is a specific reason for doing so.
The sixteen topics to be covered are centrally prescribed and they determine what examiners are entitled to include in external examination questions.	There are four topics in each unit. Since these are internally assessed, topic content can be selected to match students' interests and aspirations. Reduction in number of topics creates time for consolidation and mastery.
Students who complete the course but do not reach the required standard of performance are credited with Grade 7: Course Completed on their certificate. This gains no credit points at all.	Students who complete the Access 3 programme but do not reach the required performance may nevertheless have produced evidence sufficient for one or more units at Access 2.
Students who miss the assessment event without sufficient reason are deemed not to have completed the course. 'No Award' appears on their Scottish Qualifications Certificate and no points are awarded.	Students who miss an assessment event may be assessed at a later date. Nothing appears on the student's Scottish Qualifications Certificate until a unit or cluster of units has been successfully completed.
External assessment requires evidence of competence to be produced in written form in response to written instructions.	Evidence of competence can be assessed in a wide range of ways, e.g. orally or through observation.
Students who reach the required standard may be presented for General Level at the end of two years. Students who pass Standard Grade Foundation Level at the end of two years are unlikely ever to have an opportunity to progress to Standard Grade General Level.	Students who successfully complete an Access 3 cluster in under two years may be entered for units at Intermediate level during the time remaining or may undertake further Access 3 units in a different language. Vertical or lateral progression can be continued at college.
Foundation Level assesses what students have learned and can remember at the end of the two-year course (i.e. the focus is on learning and remembering).	Access 3 assesses what students have learned and can remember in the course of study of a topic (i.e the focus is on learning and performing).
Foundation Level assesses 'learned' language and 'applied' language (ie, familiar language in new contexts).	Access, while providing opportunities for applying language in new contexts, assesses only 'learned' language.

TOPICS COMPARED

Foundation topics	Access topics
Personal Description	Personal identification
People, Family, Friends	
Pocket money	
Parts of the body	
Own house/room	House / Home town
Buildings in town	
Daily Routine	Daily routine in a learning environment
School	
Food	Eating out Café / Restaurant
Leisure	Free time
Work	LANGUAGE IN WORK
Transport	Travel and tourism
Holidays	Shopping Accommodation
Weather	