**Quality Assurance Principles**

SQA is committed to quality assuring all its qualifications to ensure public recognition and credibility through the maintenance of standards. SQA quality assurance is based upon the following principles:

♦*The SQA assessment and quality assurance system should be understandable to stakeholders, effectively administered, publicly accountable and cost effective to operate*

*♦Qualifications should be accessible to all candidates who have the potential to achieve them*

*♦The criteria which define the performance required of candidates for them to achieve qualifications should be appropriate to purpose, explicit and in the public domain*

*♦Each unit, course and group award should be unique and necessary, and should comply with the relevant qualification specification*

*♦Assessments should be valid, reliable and practicable, and assessment results should be in line with qualification criteria*

*♦Qualifications should be offered in centers which have the resources and expertise to assess candidates against the qualification’s criteria*

*♦Staff in centers should be provided with effective support in assessing candidates for certification*

*♦Responsibility for quality assurance should be devolved to centers where this is consistent with the maintenance of national standards.*

***Quality Assurance Practices***

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