



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Component Specification NFQ Level 4

### Rockclimbing Skills 4N3246

#### 1. Component Details

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Title</b>              | Rockclimbing Skills  |
| <b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b> | Scileanna Ailleadóireachta   |
| <b>Award Type</b>         | Minor  |
| <b>Code</b>               | 4N3246   |
| <b>Level</b>              | 4  |
| <b>Credit Value</b>       | 10   |
| <b>Purpose</b>            | The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to rockclimb safely using both top and bottom rope belay systems and to second a lead climber.  |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>  | Learners will be able to:<br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Explain the design features of standard rockclimbing equipment, to include, the harness, helmet, rock shoes, and ropes</li><li>2 Use a climbing guidebook to identify and grade climbing routes appropriate to climbing experience and ability</li><li>3 Discuss potential issues that may arise when accessing various climbing environments, to include: access to land, conflict of interest with other users and conservation issues</li><li>4 Identify the different types of rock composition found at the major climbing locations in Ireland and the typical flora and fauna at these locations</li></ol> |

- 5 Perform appropriate warm up and stretching exercises before rockclimbing and use bouldering skills as part of a warm up and to practice climbing techniques
- 6 Use a range of standard climbing knots in a climbing setting, including double figure of eight, rethread figure of eight, stopper knots, clove hitch and Italian hitch
- 7 Use specialised rockclimbing equipment designed to provide protection, to include: nuts, camming devices, slings, belay device and abseiling friction device
- 8 Demonstrate rope management skills to include: coiling, uncoiling, flaking, care and maintenance of ropes
- 9 Abseil using a friction device
- 10 Set-up a sound belay system to single and multiple anchor points
- 11 Belay another climber from above and below using both a belay device and an Italian hitch
- 12 Communicate effectively in the climbing environment using standard climbing calls
- 13 Second a lead climber in a safe and controlled manner: retrieving protective equipment, undoing belay system and re-racking ready for use.

## Assessment

### General Information

All assessment should be planned in accordance with the programme assessment strategy developed as part of the programme submission for validation. See **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes**. Assessment should be undertaken consistently and reflect current assessment guidelines. See [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence consistent with the **minimum intended programme learning outcomes**.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme

validation which are reliable and valid but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

## Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and QQI's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. All learning outcomes **must** be assessed and achieved in accordance with the **minimum intended module learning outcomes** set out in the validated programme.

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Skills Demonstration | 100% |
|----------------------|------|

## Description

### Skills Demonstration

*A skills demonstration is used to assess a wide range of practical based learning outcomes including practical skills and knowledge. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks that demonstrate a range of skills.*

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

To support the development and implementation of RPL with regard to access, granting credit/exemptions and achievement of awards/parts of awards, providers should refer to **QQI's Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance**, the **Policies and**

**Criteria for Validation of Programmes and the Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training** available at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| <b>Grading</b>                          | Pass  | 50% - 64%  |
|   | Merit   | 65% - 79%  |
|   | Distinction   | 80% - 100% |
| <b>Specific Validation Requirements</b> | The provider must have all of the following in place to offer this award: The provider must have the approval of the National Governing Body Mountaineering Ireland, to offer programmes leading to this award.   |            |
| <b>Supporting Documentation</b>         | 1. Supporting documentation is accessible via the National Governing Body, Mountaineering Ireland   |            |
| <b>Access</b>                           | To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience. |            |
| <b>Transfer</b>                         | Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.   |            |

## 2. FET Award Standards

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

| AWARD CLASS        | STANDARDS                      | AWARDS  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Major Award        | Certificate Specification      | Certificate (Levels 1 to 5)<br>Advanced Certificate (Level 6) |
| Supplemental Award | Supplemental Specification     | Supplemental Certificate<br>(Level 3 to 6)                    |
| Special Purpose    | Specific Purpose Specification | Specific Purpose Certificate<br>(Levels 3 to 6)               |

Minor Award

Component Specification

Component Certificate  
(Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

### 3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

**Table 1: FET Credit Values**

| NFQ Level | Major Awards Credit Values | Default Credit Values Minor Awards | Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values | Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges |
|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1         | 20                         | 5                                  | 10  |  |
| 2         | 30                         | 5                                  | 10  |  |
| 3         | 60                         | 10                                 | 5,20                                      | >5 and <60   |
| 4         | 90                         | 10                                 | 5,15,20                                   | >5 and <90   |
| 5         | 120                        | 15                                 | 5,10,30                                   | >5 and <120  |
| 6         | 120                        | 15                                 | 5,10,30                                   | >5 and <120  |

### Guide to Level

Independence is the hallmark of this level. Learning outcomes at this level correspond to a growing sense of responsibility for participating in public life and shaping one's own life. The outcomes at this level would be associated with first-time entry to many occupational sectors.

| Strand           | Sub-strand  | Nature of learning   |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Knowledge        | Breadth     | Broad range of knowledge   |
|                  | Kind        | Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas            |
| Know How & Skill | Range       | Demonstrate a moderate range of practical and cognitive skills and tools                         |
|                  | Selectivity | Select from a range of procedures and apply known solutions to a variety of predictable problems |
| Competence       | Context     | Act in familiar and unfamiliar contexts  |
|                  | Role        | Act with considerable amount of responsibility and autonomy                                      |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Learning to Learn | Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a supervised environment     |
| Insight           | Assume partial responsibility for consistency of self-understanding and behaviour |

*Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI*

