

NISQ D20

ENDORSEMENT CRITERIA FOR RESOURCES

**For the purpose of this policy NISQ represents NISQ Governing Body, NISQ Awarding Organisation.**

NISQ fully supports the General Conditions for Recognition for awarding body/publisher relationships, published by CCEA Regulations (section C Third Parties). Our criteria for endorsement have been designed to work within the General Conditions of Recognition to ensure consistency in the decisions NISQ makes for endorsement of resources which support NISQ Regulated Qualifications, and to make clear what is signified by an ‘endorsed’ resource.

NISQ has an open endorsement policy and any publisher or organisation can request endorsement of materials aimed at supporting NISQ Regulated Qualifications. Resources eligible for endorsement include textbooks or e-textbooks, study guides, revision guides, teacher guides and other online resources that support the teaching or learning of a particular qualification.

Endorsed resources are produced by publishers separate from NISQ and do not contain any privileged information required for successful completion of a particular NISQ Regulated Qualification. Users of an endorsed resource should always refer to the specification and any other free materials available from NISQ as the only official sources of information.

Endorsement of a resource means that its content has been reviewed to ensure that it covers all of the teaching and learning requirements of a specification, or part of the specification, at which it is aimed. NISQ makes no judgment on its style or the approach to delivery it might advocate – it is a matter for users to decide the approach that will best suit their needs, once they have the assurance that the content is covered in full. Assessment activities such as practice exam questions or assignments are often provided by publishers in their resources, but those included in an endorsed resource are not ‘authorised’ or ‘approved’ in any way, as only NISQ can produce such materials.

Endorsement is not meant to imply that a particular resource is essential or recommended for study of a particular Regulated Qualification. NISQ aims to have a range of resources endorsed, and it is likely that there will also be other high-quality resources which have not been put forward for endorsement.

No NISQ Staff will have been involved in the preparation of an endorsed resource for any NISQ Qualifications. This is to ensure a separation between preparation for a NISQ Regulated qualification and its assessment.

NISQ operates a transparent endorsement process which manages any risks to the integrity of our NISQ Regulated Qualifications and Qualification standards. The endorsement process comprises a rigorous quality assurance procedure where we review teaching and learning materials designed to support and prepare learners for a NISQ Regulated Qualification.

NISQ Qualification Division will use the following Criteria/Form NISQ 99 to assess the material for endorsement. This is present before the NISQ Approval Panel for recommendations to the NISQ Governing Body.

Criteria for Endorsement

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| Criteria – NISQ 99  | OutcomeYes/no |
| 1. It offers high-quality support for a NISQ Regulated Qualification or Full Published Specification by being factually accurate and relevant to the target audience.  |  |
| 2. It does not focus on exam preparation or guidance on exams unless they are specifically identified as revision guides or other study aids.  |  |
| 3. It does not refer to grades or how to gain a specific grade or mark by focusing on one grade boundary, e.g. A/B, Unit/Units in a Regulated Qualification Cycle. This also applies to revision guides and study aids.  |  |
| 4. It covers the breadth and depth of the Full Published specification they are aimed at by encouraging deeper understanding of a particular subject through wider reading and research. |  |
| 5. It does not promote a narrow pathway to gain a NISQ Regulated Qualification by focusing on a minimum coverage of compulsory content/unit/module. Unless the resource is explicitly covering a section of content only, all compulsory content/units/modules should be equally covered.  |  |
| 6. It does not demonstrate an imbalance between teaching, learning and preparation for assessment by offering repeated exam tips and advice, or focusing solely on exam preparation or how to pass a particular exam.  |  |
| 7. It is accessible to learners of all ability ranges and levels unless they are specifically aimed at a particular cohort of learners of a specific gender or geographical group or ability. |  |
| 8. It aims to stretch and support achievement at all grades, e.g. Pass/Merit/Distinction.  |  |
| Resources which have been endorsed, including those published by NISQ, will carry the official endorsement statement and endorsement logo to confirm that they have been through the official awarding body quality assurance approval process.  *Endorsed by N.I. Security Qualifications**2018/001-.*  |