

CHARACTERISTICS OF GRADES 1-4

Characteristics of an outstanding (grade 1) lesson	✓
Almost all learners make very good or excellent progress	
Learners show high levels of enjoyment	
Teacher has high level of expertise and high expectations	
Learners meet demanding and very challenging targets	
The work is pitched and suitably challenged for all learners	
Methods and use of resources such as ICT is used to engage and extend learners	
Work is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners including those with additional learning needs	
Careful planning is based on thorough assessment	
Learners are clear about how their work can improve	
There is a high level of independent learning	
Teaching assistants are well directed	
Attitudes to learning are very good and behaviour is exemplary	

Characteristics of a satisfactory (Grade 3) lesson	✓
Teacher has a secure knowledge of the curriculum and course requirements	
Most learners make the progress expected of them	
Learners enjoy their work and are motivated to do well	
The level of challenge is sufficient for all groups of learners	
Almost all learners meet reasonably challenging targets	
Teaching methods encourage and engage learners	
ICT supports independent study	
Assessment is adequate for teacher to monitor learners' progress	
Assessment sufficiently informs planning and indicates to learners what to do to improve	
Work is appropriate to those with additional learning needs	

Characteristics of a good (Grade 2) lesson	✓
Most learners make good progress	
Work is matched to capabilities so that all can succeed	
Teaching is well informed, confident, engaging and precise	
Learners meet challenging targets	
The level of challenge stretches without inhibiting the learner	
Teaching methods are effectively related to the lesson objectives	
Learners with additional needs have work tailored to their needs	
Thorough and accurate assessment informs learners how to improve	
Teaching assistants and resources are well deployed	
Good use is made of time	
Behaviour overall is good and learners are keen to get on with their work	
The health and safety of learners is not endangered	

Characteristics of an inadequate (Grade 4) lesson - a lesson cannot be adequate if:	✓
Teacher has weak knowledge of the curriculum learning to inaccurate teaching and low demands on pupils	
Work is badly matched to pupils' starting points	
Inadequate use of resources, including assistants and the time available	
Methods which are poorly geared to the learning objectives or which fail to gain the interest and commitment of the learners	
Poor assessment	
Ineffective classroom management of behaviour	
Most learners' or a significant minority of learners, make less than satisfactory progress, whether it is due to unsatisfactory teaching or the impact of bad behaviour	
Learners' overall behaviour or attitudes are unsatisfactory	
The health and safety of learners is endangered	
The teaching is unsatisfactory which often causes the learners' progress to be unsatisfactory	
Occasionally progress will be satisfactory in spite of the teaching due to good attitudes of the learner	