

# Definitions of Literacy

**The Language Transferee**

A person who transfers daily from the natural language environment to different one to make a living and is expected to cope as a mother-tongue user.

**NQF 4**

**Aiming for Native speaker proficiency**

Complete mastery of the language in all situations. Second language users function as co-ordinate bilinguals, they CoPE; cognition & proficient in English.

**NQF 3**

**Full professional proficiency**

Can establish and maintain successful social communication. Can discuss professional matters fluently, accurately and appropriately. Language will very rarely be a hindrance to a successful performance of tasks.

**Academic literacy:** having the ability to do critical reading, writing, thinking & having the ability to respond accordingly. Theoretically a skills level equivalent to ten years of formal schooling.

**NQF 2**

**General work proficiency**

Comfortable in ordinary social conversation. Professional matters are discussed with more accuracy and fluency.

**Minimum professional proficiency**

Can initiate and take part in ordinary social conversation. Can discuss professional matters, but not always accurately or fluently. This level is minimum for a satisfactory performance of professional tasks.

**NQF 1**

**Functionally literate:** having the reading and writing skills necessary for everyday living, including work. Theoretically a skills level equivalent to eight years of formal schooling.

**ABET 3**

**Minimum Social proficiency/Limited working proficiency**

Can take part in simple social conversation. Can give simple instructions, but cannot explain. Adequate for only some simple routine practical work. At this level there will be no real social or professional communication.

**ABET 2**

**“Survival” proficiency**

Understands some simple words and phrases. Can survive in the environment, but cannot communicate.

**Marginally literate:** Foundational skills to satisfy immediate needs using rehearsed speech.

**ABET 1**

**Minimal “Survival” proficiency**

Able to satisfy basic survival needs in the language such as write his name and read and write few basic words. In most cases this person has had less than 8 years formal education and has lost his skills (or regressed) due to disuse.

**Illiterate**

**Illiterate:** unable to read and write. In most cases this person has had no schooling. Employees in this category will require a course in Basic Literacy in their mother tongue. Our Literati training programme caters for this need.