

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

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Global Seminar on Strategic Issues in Higher Education

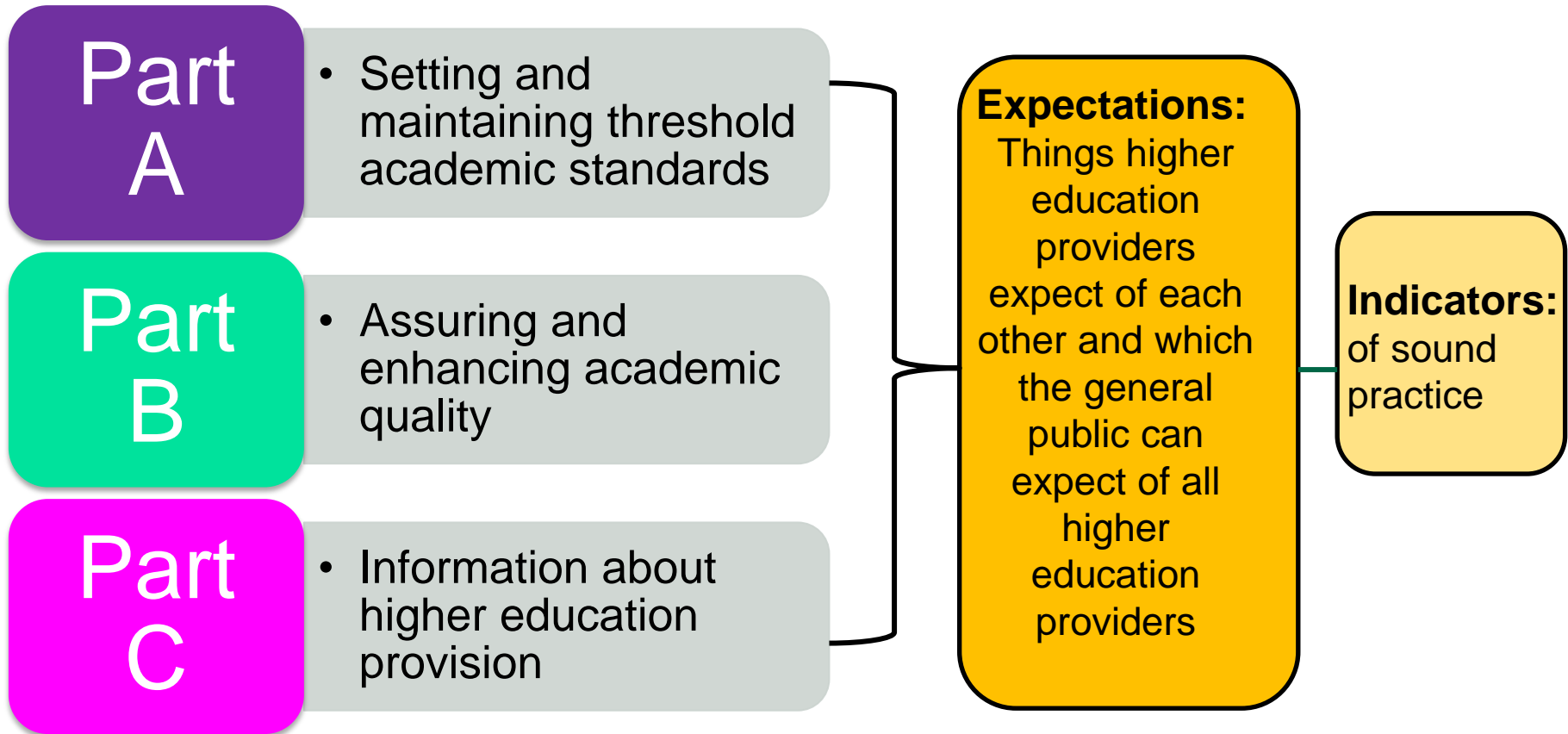
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The role of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

- QAA's mission is to **safeguard standards and improve the quality of UK higher education**
- We work with higher education providers to develop reference documents and guidance which are used by all providers
- We conduct reviews and publish reports detailing the findings of those reviews
- For more information see:
www.qaa.ac.uk/aboutus



UK Quality Code for Higher Education



Chapters of the Quality Code

Part A: Setting and maintaining threshold academic standards

- A1: The national level
- A2: The subject and qualification level
- A3: The programme level
- A4: Approval and review
- A5: Externality
- A6: Assessment of achievement of learning outcomes

Part C: Information about higher education provision

Part B: Assuring and enhancing academic quality

- B1: Programme design and approval
- B2: Admissions
- B3: Learning and teaching
- B4: Student support
- B5: Student engagement
- B6: Assessment of students and accreditation of prior learning
- B7: External examining
- B8: Programme monitoring and review
- B9: Complaints and appeals
- B10: Management of collaborative arrangements
- B11: Research degrees

General introduction



QAA

Types of review

- Institutional Review (England and Northern Ireland)
- Institutional Review (Wales).
- Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR)
- Review of College Higher Education and Initial Review
- Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review (IQER)
- Review for Educational Oversight (REO)

Outcomes of review

A. the academic standards of the HEIs awards

- meet / do not meet UK expectations for threshold standards

B. The quality of student learning opportunities...

B. The enhancement of student learning opportunities...

C. The quality of the information produced by the HEI about its learning opportunities...

- ...is commended
- ...meets UK expectations
- ...requires improvement to meet UK expectations
- ...does not meet UK expectations

Who uses the UK Quality Code and the outcomes of reviews?



Quality Managers



Students



Academic Staff



UK Quality Code
for Higher Education



Employers



Professional, statutory
and regulatory bodies
(PSRBs)



Other stakeholder groups



Quality assurance, quality enhancement and ranking

- Provides description, formative feedback and summative judgements
- Promotes continuous improvement in individual HEIs; HE sector nationally and internationally
- Inclusive of all types of HE providers and provision
- Based on nationally agreed and internationally relevant reference points
- Outcomes of review and underlying reference points have multiple purposes and audiences
- Complementary approaches