

# GCE IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Why choose the GCE Built Environment?

The WJEC GCE in Built Environment offers a learning experience for 16 – 19 year olds which focusses on applying knowledge, skills and understanding through contextualised tasks and study.

It provides an excellent overview of the built environment and the associated professions.

## What will I study?

### Unit 1: Our Built Environment

In this examined unit learners will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- buildings and structures
- careers, roles and organisations in the built environment
- designing and constructing substructures, superstructures and service requirements
- change of use
- external works.

### Unit 2: Design and Planning Practices

In this non-examined assessment (NEA) unit learners will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the design process and factors that influence the design process
- developing initial project briefs
- producing designs and virtual modelling
- planning construction methods and techniques

### Unit 3: Materials, Technologies and Techniques

In this examined unit learners will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- properties of and degradation of materials
- structural analysis and building comfort
- standards for measurements
- thermal, acoustic and lighting considerations
- building services systems

### Unit 4: Construction Practices

In this non-examined assessment (NEA) unit learners will develop knowledge and understanding of:

- surveying (buildings or land)
- development concepts
- management of construction, purchasing and finance
- programmes of activities

Unit 4 is unique in that it offers the choice between two pathways – land surveying or building surveying.

# GCE IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT



## What skills will I develop?

- skills associated with planning, developing, managing and evaluating built environment projects
- designing and drawing skills associated with built environment concepts
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) skills
- Surveying skills

You will also be able to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers and higher education including:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital literacy
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Planning and organisation
- Creativity and innovation
- Personal effectiveness.

## How will I be assessed?

AS units		
<b>Unit 1: Our Built Environment</b> will be assessed through a written examination 100 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours</li><li>• 20% of qualification 80 marks</li><li>• a range of question types to assess specific content related to the built environment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the paper is presented as a question-and-answer booklet</li><li>• all questions are compulsory</li></ul>
<b>Unit 2: Design and Planning Practices</b> will be assessed through a non-exam assessment (NEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• approximately 30 hours duration</li><li>• 20% of qualification 80 marks</li><li>• this task assesses the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to design and planning practices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WJEC will set a contextualised brief each examinations series. In response to this brief, learners will undertake a practical project in which tangible outcomes are produced, including planning, practical and evaluative activities</li></ul>
A level Units		
<b>Unit 3: Materials, Technologies and Techniques</b> will be assessed through a written examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours 30 minutes</li><li>• 30% of qualification 100 marks</li><li>• a written paper comprising a range of question types to assess specific content related to the use of materials,</li></ul>	<p>technologies and techniques in the built environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the paper is presented as a question-and-answer booklet</li><li>• all questions are compulsory</li></ul>
<b>Unit 4: Construction Practices</b> will be assessed through a non-examined assessment (NEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• approximately 40 hours</li><li>• 30% of qualification 80 marks</li><li>• learners have a choice of two pathways, either a building survey or a land survey</li><li>• this task assesses the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to construction practices. Learners are</li></ul>	<p>required to produce a development concept based on their survey findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• learners are also required to produce subsequent construction management information, purchasing and financial management information and a programme of activities based on their development concept</li></ul>

## Careers with the GCE Built Environment

By studying for the GCE Built Environment you will be able to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers and higher education. One purpose of this qualification is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as: Architecture, Construction Management, Project Management, Estate Management,

Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying, Engineering Services, Supply Chain Management and Design Management. Alternatively, the qualification, along with other appropriate qualifications, will help you to gain the required understanding and skills to apply for employment within the construction industry.