



## **WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Designing the Built Environment**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The construction industry employs about 10% of the UK workforce and creates the buildings in which we work, live, study and enjoy our leisure time. It also creates the roads, railways, airports and seaports we use to help us travel to those buildings. If someone wants to add an extension to their home, add new office buildings on their land or turn a field into a sports centre, they need to:

- make sure they meet planning requirements
- use materials and structures that deliver a safe and efficient building
- provide access by road, rail or water
- ensure it can be built within budget.

Increasingly, society wants construction to be:

- sustainable through using materials that are sourced sustainably and sustainable energy sources
- design conscious; providing buildings that are pleasant to look at and use.

These needs and wants are met through the design of the construction project.

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Designing the Built Environment is designed to mainly support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about the construction industry from the design and planning perspective. It provides learners with a broad introduction to the design sector of the construction industry and the types of career opportunities available. It is mainly suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study could provide learners with the awareness of the work of different types of job roles in the sector such as architects, design engineers, surveyors and planning officers. As a result, they may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue with their studies into higher education in order to pursue those job roles.

The successful completion of this qualification, together with other equivalent qualifications, such as maths and sciences, could provide the learner with opportunities to access a range of qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships, vocationally related and occupational qualifications. These include:

- GCEs in Physics or Environmental Studies;
- Diplomas in Sustainable Construction and Built Environment Design
- Apprenticeships in Surveying and Civil Engineering

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification. It is likely to be studied by 14-16 year olds in schools alongside GCSEs.

This is the qualification structure:

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<b>Unit number</b>	<b>Unit title</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>GLH</b>
1	Planning potential of construction projects	External	30
2	Drawing construction plans	Internal	60
3	Building structures and materials	Internal	30

This structure has been designed to allow learners to develop the understanding and skills related to a range of functional roles in the construction design sector. The units provide an overview of roles such as planning officers, design engineers and architect technicians and how these roles work together to produce construction designs that are fit for purpose. Each unit has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in construction. Each unit has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. This approach is called applied learning and enables learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development
- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of project-based research, development and presentation
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals in a professional environment.

The qualification has been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning, where learners are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors many work-related activities in construction and also provides for learning in a range of contexts from urban to rural environments and large and small scale construction projects. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work involved in the design of the built environment and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.