



## **WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment**

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Whether the built environment consists of businesses, homes, shops, protected spaces or a combination of two or more of these, it is important to ensure that it meets the needs of its local community. If it fails to meet those needs, shops close, houses become empty and derelict and the community may start to abuse the environment. Land and property owners and management organisations will need the services of the construction industry to maintain the value of the built environment to its community.

Any built environment needs maintaining. This could be by investing in protecting the heritage of historic buildings, developing leisure facilities for community use, offering low rental charges for new retailers to an area. All of these add not only to the financial value of the built environment but also to the health and wellbeing of the community. Spotting defects can save money for a business, but identifying the cause of defects saves even more. Maintaining the built environment involves a range of activities which together contribute to sustainable, safe, comfortable and less costly built environments.

The environment and sustainability issues, such as minimisation of waste, pollution control, use of resources, preservation of heritage and culture, flora and fauna and protection of biodiversity is an increasingly important aspect of the planning and maintenance of the built environment. Consequently the construction industry will explore the concept of sustainable construction and how it affects the built and natural environment and their users.

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment is designed to support learners to develop an awareness of these key issues. It mainly supports learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about the construction industry from the sustainability and maintenance perspective. It provides learners with a broad introduction to how the built environment is maintained 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 builder, architect, interior designer, facilities manager or tradesperson. As a result, they may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue with their studies in order to pursue those job roles. For some of those job roles, such as architect or interior designer, this may require progression to higher education.

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 Sociology and Environmental Studies
- Diplomas in Town Planning, Building Control and Conservation
- Apprenticeships in surveying and construction technical supervision and control.

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:

<b>WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment</b>			
<b>Unit number</b>	<b>Unit title</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>GLH</b>
1	Adding Value to the built environment	External	30
2	Maintaining the built environment	Internal	60
3	Sustainable environment	Internal	30

This structure has been designed to allow learners to develop the understanding and skills related to a range of job roles in construction with an emphasis on maintaining the built environment. The units provide an overview of the activities of different job roles and how they work together to maintain the built environment. 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 in mainly small scale construction projects which have a community focus. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work involved in the planning and maintaining the built environment and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.