

GCSE IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Why choose GCSE in Built Environment?

The WJEC GCSE in Built Environment offers a learning experience for 14 – 16 year olds which focuses on gaining and applying knowledge, skills and understanding through contextualised tasks and study.

It provides an ideal introduction to the built environment.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

In this examined unit you will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the ideas and concepts related to the built environment. This will include the built environment life cycle, structures, materials, sustainability, careers and health & safety.

Unit 2: Creating the Built Environment

In this non-examined assessment unit (NEA) you have a choice of two pathways:

Designing the Built Environment - focus is on 2D and 3D drawing skills
Constructing the Built Environment – focus is on the development of 2 practical skills

You are required to select just one pathway

The task in each pathway assesses your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to identifying, interpreting and calculating information; writing success criteria; carrying out a range of techniques appropriate to the pathway and evaluating tasks.

Unit 3: Exploring the Built Environment

In this non-examined assessment unit (NEA) you will develop knowledge, skills and

understanding in relation to the stages of the building life cycle; the stages and processes involved in the design, construction and value & use of the built environment.

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What skills will I develop?

By studying for the GCSE in Built Environment:

Constructing the Built Environment pathway - you will develop two practical skills. Those available are Wood, Brick, Plaster, Decorating, Tiling, Electrical, Plumbing, Heritage and Textiles. Your teacher will tell you which are available at your centre. In addition to these practical skills you will gain other built environment skills including interpreting technical sources of information, costing and planning.

Designing the Built Environment pathway - you will develop 2D and 3D drawing skills in the development of plans and virtual models (which will include IT skills associated with the drawing package(s) used). In addition to these drawing skills you will gain other built

environment skills including identifying and calculating information, writing and setting success criteria and evaluating designs.

Regardless of which pathway you choose, you will also be able to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education, including:

- literacy and numeracy
- digital literacy
- critical thinking and problem solving
- planning and organisation
- creativity and innovation
- personal effectiveness

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment will be assessed through a written examination.

- 1.5 hours
- 35% of the GCSE
- on-screen
- a range of questions based on ideas and concepts of the built environment

Unit 2: Creating the Built Environment will be assessed through non-examination assessment (NEA): marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC.

- 25 hours
- 40% of the GCSE
- assessment will relate to either **Constructing the Built Environment** or **Designing the Built Environment** depending on your choice

Unit 3: Exploring the Built Environment will be assessed through non-examination assessment (NEA): marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC.

- 15 hours
- 25% of the GCSE

Careers with the GCSE in Built Environment

This GCSE provides you with a general overview of the built environment in addition to developing your abilities in a range of practical skills or design skills. It provides a potentially suitable foundation for further study, an apprenticeship or employment. It will also provide a coherent, satisfying and

worthwhile course of study for you if you do not progress to further study in this subject. In addition, it will introduce you to many new aspects of the built environment which could help you make informed decisions about a wide range of career opportunities.