



Purpose Statement

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Designing the Built Environment

Overview

WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Designing the Built Environment is designed to 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.

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop knowledge and understanding and gain experience of a practical application of skills in the construction industry.

What will the qualification cover?

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.

The qualification has been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, and 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.

The qualification structure and content

The WJEC Vocational Award in Designing the Built Environment is made up of three mandatory units totalling 120 guided learning hours (GLH):

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Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	Mandatory/Optional	GLH
1	Planning potential of construction projects	External	Mandatory	30
2	Drawing construction plans	Internal	Mandatory	60
3	Building structures and materials	Internal	Mandatory	30

All three units have Synoptic elements (including skills and knowledge) Unit 3* is the synoptic unit

Assessment

All three units are mandatory and unit 1 is externally assessed. Units 2 and 3 are internally assessed.

What could this qualification lead to?

The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to further education and training such as level 3 qualifications: GCE or Vocational. The most relevant pathway will depend upon the outcome achieved within this qualification and others taken alongside. The qualification will allow progression routes into:

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