Cambridge Technicals in IT Levels 2 and 3

An ideal foundation for students entering the workplace

Cambridge Technicals are aimed at young people aged 16 to 19 who have completed Key Stage 4 of their education and want to study in a more practical, work-related way. The Cambridge Technicals in IT take an in-depth look at IT that's all around us, providing students with a theoretical background reinforced with skills that transfer into the modern workplace.

We talked to two ICT teachers about the realities of offering this qualification in their schools.

Gary Morton is ICT teacher and Head of House at Aldridge School, a Science college in the West Midlands, which has ten learners doing a Cambridge Technicals in ICT Level 3.

He commented: *"The course is very suited to our learners' needs. They can obtain a good range of grades from it. It is a very robust qualification that contains the right elements for candidates to go on from this and move on to a Level 4 qualification."*

Saaima Iqbal is a Course Tutor in ICT at Oldham College, which has 28 students taking Cambridge Technicals Level 2. We asked her how it helped to improve their knowledge and skills. Saaima told us that it helped with *"better independent learning."* She also commented that the *"levels of theory are more detailed and suitable for skills required in industry."*

The Cambridge Technicals in IT include a wide choice of units including hardware, software and online. There are practical activities in all units i.e. a 'learn, do, review' approach. Gary explained to us what his learners found particularly interesting: *"During classes, the learners participated with the course very well. They were particularly interested in working hands on with computer systems and learning about how to repair/build their own machines."*

When we asked Saaima about the best/most beneficial aspects of the course, she mentioned: *"Allowing learners to express their learning in their desired style. Giving them the opportunity to be more creative."*

Gary told us how the course is helping to improve learners' knowledge and skills. *"The course is flexible and demanding enough that the learners can go as far into the topics as they want to. The Learning objectives set by each unit allow for the candidate to prove a very good in-depth knowledge to be demonstrated and it is also teaching them valuable skills that they can use in everyday life."*

We pride ourselves on the high standards of support for Cambridge Technicals, and both our teachers said they have found it very easy to work with us at OCR. Saaima commented that we are *"very supportive"* with *"updates given regularly"*. She said further: *"We have received an expert visit and the online forums are very useful for any queries."* She also mentioned the "helpful team and quick response time on queries."

When we asked Gary about working with OCR, he said: *"Considering this a brand new course OCR has been excellent to work with. They have provided full details of each unit of work we have undertaken to enough level of detail so we know what needs to be taught. The use of the OCR social forum is excellent as you can always rely on someone from OCR to respond to a query raised in a clear professional way."*

He added: *"The levels of support and quick response you get back from OCR and the up to date course information is excellent. I also like that OCR have a robust procedure for assessing work completed by the learners."*

To read more about Cambridge Technicals in IT, go to http://www.ocr.org.uk/cambridgetechnicals or contact our Customer Contact Centre on 02476 851509.