

Level 3

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Level 2

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Employability  
and Personal Life

Enterprise

Learner  
Development

Thinking and  
Reasoning

## Level 2 Award in Employability Skills (QCF)

Our Employability Skills qualifications (Ready Steady Work suite) aim to give students the confidence, skills, knowledge and understanding to enter or return to the workplace.

### This qualification is aimed at:

- Young people, aged 14–19 in full-time education.
- Students following vocational training programmes.

### Benefits

- Aimed at equipping students with employability skills.
- Flexible structure, allowing for a personalised approach for students.
- You are able to contextualise units to students' chosen vocational area.
- Accreditation developed around 'what employers want' – attributes are underpinned in all unit content.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Award in Employability Skills (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>3 per unit</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Students choose three units</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Internally assessed and externally moderated</b>
<b>Graded</b>	<b>Pass or fail</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	
	<b>Assessing myself for work</b>
	<b>Learning to be financially capable</b>
	<b>Preparing for and learning from interviews</b>
	<b>Presenting personal information effectively</b>
	<b>Preparing for and learning from a work placement</b>

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[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>3 per unit</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Students complete all units</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Internally assessed and externally moderated</b>
<b>Graded</b>	<b>Pass or fail</b>

### Unit titles

**Assessing myself for work**  
**Learning to be financially capable**  
**Preparing for and learning from interviews**  
**Presenting personal information effectively**  
**Preparing for and learning from a work placement**

## Level 2 Award in Personal Life Skills (QCF)

A qualification suite to help students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to manage life and future opportunities. The qualification suite has been designed to be completely flexible so you can choose any combination of units to suit the needs and interests of your students.

### This qualification is aimed at:

- Young people, aged 14–19 in full-time education
- Students following vocational training courses, and mature individuals following learning programmes.

### Benefits

- Assessment and support materials developed in conjunction with the PHSE Association
- A flexible structure that can be adapted to meet the needs of individual students
- ‘Spiky profile’ certification offering flexibility for students who wish to study units from different levels
- All units are worth 3 credits each.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Award in Personal Life Skills (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>60–90</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Students complete five units</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Internally assessed and externally moderated</b>

### Unit titles

- Assessing myself for work**
- Managing risks in personal decision-making**
- Maintaining and improving personal health and wellbeing**
- Learning to be financially capable**
- Understanding personal relationships and respecting diversity**

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- Students following vocational training courses, and mature individuals following learning programmes.

### Benefits

- Assessment and support materials developed in conjunction with the PHSE Association
- A flexible structure that can be adapted to meet the needs of individual students
- ‘Spiky profile’ certification offering flexibility for students who wish to study units from different levels
- All units are worth 3 credits each.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Certificate in Personal Life Skills (QCF)

**Guided learning hours** 110–150

**Credit value** 9

**Structure** Students complete three units

**Assessment methodology** Internally assessed and externally moderated

#### Unit titles

**Assessing myself for work**

**Managing risks in personal decision-making**

**Maintaining and improving personal health and wellbeing**

**Learning to be financially capable**

**Understanding personal relationships and respecting diversity**

## Level 2 Certificate in Young Enterprise (QCF)

Young Enterprise provides a basis for the development of understanding and practical skills that would be of use to those starting their own business.

This qualification relates to those participating in the Young Enterprise Company Programmes, which introduces students to core aspects of business and enterprise skills and knowledge. The qualification accredits students' achievements at Level 2 of the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

### Benefits

- Recognises students' achievements from their Young Enterprise Company Programme experience.
- Single unit qualification.
- Assessed by external examination to alleviate the assessment burden on centres.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Certificate in Young Enterprise (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Single unit</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Examined unit</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	
<b>Assessing the performance of a Young Enterprise company</b>	

## Level 3 Certificate in Young Enterprise (QCF)

Young Enterprise provides a basis for the development of understanding and practical skills that would be of use to those starting their own business

This qualification relates to those participating in the Young Enterprise Company Programmes, which introduces students to core aspects of business and enterprise skills and knowledge. The qualification accredits students' achievements at Level 3 of the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

### Benefits

- Recognises students' achievements from their Young Enterprise Company Programme experience.
- Single unit qualification.
- Assessed by external examination to alleviate the assessment burden on centres.
- Inclusion in the UCAS tariff.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 Certificate in Young Enterprise (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>UCAS points</b>	<b>20–40 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Single unit</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Examined unit</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	<b>Evaluating the performance of a Young Enterprise company</b>

## Level 2 Higher Project (QCF)

Project encourages students to develop and learn in their own way, acquiring skills and not just information.

### Benefits

The Higher Project encourages students to:

- Develop as inquisitive and independent students
- Be inspired by new areas and/or methods of study
- Understand and use research skills
- Use their learning experiences to support any personal aspirations for further study and career development
- Become confident users of study-related technologies.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 2 Higher Project (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>1 unit</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Internally assessed and externally moderated</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	
<b>A taught element</b>	
<b>A skills-based individual piece of work</b>	



## Level 3 Extended Project (QCF)

Our Extended Project qualification motivates students to develop independence and learn in their own way. It's ideal for improving transferable skills such as planning, research, analysis and evaluation, through the management of a skills-based assessed assignment.

### Benefits

The Extended Project encourages students to:

- Choose and negotiate the topic and scope of an Extended Project, and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project.
- Develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students.
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Extend their skills in planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation.
- Become confident users of study-related technologies.
- Develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise.
- Use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further study and/or career development.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 Extended Project (QCF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>UCAS points</b>	<b>20–70 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Single unit</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Internally assessed and externally moderated</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	
<b>A taught element</b>	
<b>A skills-based individual piece of work</b>	

## OCR Level 2 Award in Thinking and Reasoning Skills (NQF)

We have developed this qualification in response to a number of centres identifying a lack of a qualification in this discipline area for Level 2 students.

The qualification has an interesting mix of reasoning skills and broader thinking skills, through which students have the opportunity to develop thinking in its fullest sense.

These skills have a broad range of applications and students should be able to benefit from these in a variety of contexts, both academic (e.g. in other school subjects across the science – arts spectrum) and everyday life (e.g. evaluating a news report or information on the internet; unpicking the reasoning of other people's arguments and forming well-founded arguments of their own).

### Aims

Some of the skills students will develop through a course in Thinking and Reasoning Skills are:

- Conceptual thinking skills in order to explore ideas and their connections.
- Enquiry skills enabling them to generate their own questions in relation to evidence and information.
- Problem-solving skills enabling them to organise and analyse data so that conclusions can be drawn from it.
- The ability to question evidence for relevance, significance and credibility.
- Reasoning skills so that they can analyse arguments, evaluate reasoning and develop reasoned arguments of their own.

The qualification covers ten skills:

- Understanding arguments
- Evaluating arguments
- Presenting and developing arguments
- Evaluating the credibility of sources
- Evaluating evidence
- Seeking and evaluating explanations
- Decision making and ethical reasoning
- Conceptual thinking and clarifying the meaning of concepts
- Information processing and problem solving
- Creative thinking.

[Visit the website](#)

### OCR Level 2 Award in Thinking and Reasoning Skills (NQF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Credit value</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>Single unit</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>Examined unit</b>

#### Unit titles

**Assessing the performance of a Young Enterprise company**

## Level 3 AS GCE in Critical Thinking (NQF)

Critical Thinking is a skills-based rather than content-based A Level. It develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.

### Benefits

- Development of this specification is supported by eight years experience of Critical Thinking – OCR AS Level Critical Thinking has been available since 1999.
- We have successfully delivered Critical Thinking as a four-unit A Level since 2005.
- This specification draws on that experience to improve the specification and ensure that it meets the needs of you and your students.
- The new specification has been designed in consultation with customers and ensures continuity for those already teaching this subject.
- Progression from AS to A2 Level is made explicit and a greater challenge is presented at A2 Level through the nature and depth of the material studied and the greater complexity of the concepts dealt with.
- Critical Thinking develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.
- Skills developed through the study of Critical Thinking at A Level act as excellent preparation both for students wishing to progress onto higher education and those entering the work environment.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 AS GCE in Critical Thinking (NQF)

**Guided learning hours** 180

**UCAS points** 20–60 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved

**Structure** 2 units

**Assessment methodology** 2 x 1 hour 30 minute examinations

#### Unit titles

**Introduction to Critical Thinking**  
**Assessing and developing argument**

## Level 3 Advanced GCE in Critical Thinking (NQF)

Critical Thinking is a skills-based rather than content-based A Level. It develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.

### Benefits

- Development of this specification is supported by eight years experience of Critical Thinking – OCR AS Level Critical Thinking has been available since 1999.
- We have successfully delivered Critical Thinking as a four-unit A Level since 2005.
- This specification draws on that experience to improve the specification and ensure that it meets the needs of you and your students.
- The new specification has been designed in consultation with customers and ensures continuity for those already teaching this subject.
- Progression from AS to A2 Level is made explicit and a greater challenge is presented at A2 Level through the nature and depth of the material studied and the greater complexity of the concepts dealt with.
- Critical Thinking develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments and can support thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.
- Skills developed through the study of Critical Thinking at A Level act as excellent preparation both for students wishing to progress onto higher education and those entering the work environment.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 Advanced GCE in Critical Thinking (NQF)

**Guided learning hours** 360

**UCAS points** 40–140 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved

**Structure** 4 units

**Assessment methodology** 4 x 1 hour 30 minute examinations

#### Unit titles

**Introduction to Critical Thinking**

**Assessing and developing argument**

**Ethical reasoning and decision making**

**Critical reasoning**

## Level 3 AS GCE in General Studies (NQF)

This specification allows students to gain a greater perspective and a clearer understanding of the world they live in. General Studies is an excellent complement to all other A Level examinations, producing a more rounded, balanced world view on the part of the student.

### Benefits

- It's been brought up to date – with many popular key topics retained and other relevant ones added.
- Simple, straightforward assessment, through the popular extended writing requirement with no coursework element.
- This new specification is excellent preparation for students wishing to progress to degree-level study of any subject by encouraging students to think more broadly about world events and their place within them.

It encourages students to:

- View issues from a wide range of perspectives.
- Integrate knowledge from a range of disciplines in order to develop an understanding of the interrelationship between them and encourage a broader and deeper understanding of issues.
- Think logically and creatively in order to assess the relative merits of evidence, make informed decisions, and reach justifiable conclusions.

[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 AS GCE in General Studies (NQF)

<b>Guided learning hours</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>UCAS points</b>	<b>20–60 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>2 units</b>
<b>Assessment methodology</b>	<b>1 x 1 hour and 1 x 2 hour written examinations</b>
<b>Unit titles</b>	<b>The cultural and social domains The scientific domain</b>

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- Simple, straightforward assessment, through the popular extended writing requirement with no coursework element.
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[Visit the website](#)

### Level 3 Advanced GCE in General Studies (NQF)

**Guided learning hours** 360

**UCAS points** 40–140 UCAS points depending upon grade achieved

**Structure** 4 units

**Assessment methodology** 1 x 1 hour, 2 x 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 x 2 hour written examinations

#### Unit titles

**The cultural and social domains**

**The scientific domain**

**Domain exploration: Applying synoptic skills**

**Culture, science and society: Making connections**

# Next Steps

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Facsimile 01223 552627

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