



Introduction

Q: What are Cambridge Technicals?

A: Cambridge Technicals are targeted at learners aged 16+ in either a school or FE environment and are available at Level 2 and Level 3. They allow for greater flexibility with the choice of units that make up the qualification and are wholly internally assessed. In addition, the Level 3 qualifications have UCAS points, supporting progression to higher education.

Q: Why Cambridge Technicals?

A: With our breadth of knowledge and experience gained through the success of our vocational qualifications, Cambridge Technicals offer learners a vocational alternative to A Levels that will help to prepare them for the world of work or to continue their studies. Teaching staff benefit from OCR's excellent support and teaching resources available on the OCR website, plus a dedicated Customer Contact Centre, Regional Customer Admin Support Managers, Regional Account Managers and our Visiting Moderators.



Q: What subjects are available?

A: The following subjects are available for certification at Level 2 Certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma, and Level 3 Certificate, Introductory Diploma, Subsidiary Diploma, Diploma and Extended Diploma with the exception of Science which is only available at Level 2. Two subjects are also available at Level 4 – these are Health and Social Care, and IT.



Art and Design
Level 2 Level 3



Business
Level 2 Level 3



Health and Social Care
Level 2 Level 3 Level 4



IT
Level 2 Level 3 Level 4



Media
Level 2 Level 3



Performing Arts
Level 2 Level 3



Sport
Level 2 Level 3



Science
Level 2

Q: Why have you chosen to introduce Cambridge Technicals for the above subjects only?

A: These subjects are among the most popular taken by learners aged 16+ and offer progression into employment or further study in a range of sectors.



Approvals

Q: We do not currently offer Cambridge Technicals in our centre, so how do I gain approval?

A: New requests for centre approval to offer Cambridge Technicals should be made via the standard centre approval process for vocational qualifications. Visit the OCR website for the relevant approval form.

Q: How much does approval cost?

A: Nothing – it's free! There is no approval cost for the Cambridge Technicals qualifications.

Q: What is the process for transferring from BTECs?

A: If you would like to transfer from teaching BTECs, please see the above section regarding approvals. If you would like further support with the transfer, contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851209**, the Customer Admin Support Manager for your region, or your Regional Account Manager.

Q: Can we register our interest in Cambridge Technicals?

A: Yes. Centres can sign up now to teach Cambridge Technicals by visiting www.cambridgetechnical.org.uk. Select the 'Contact us' section and click on the 'Sign up to teach' form.

Assessment/Moderation

Q: How is the work assessed?

A: The work is all internally assessed, then moderated by an OCR Visiting Moderator. Following the moderation visit, and if the Visiting Moderator agrees with the grades awarded, certificates are then issued by OCR for any achieved units and full qualifications.

Q: How is the visit arranged?

A: When you have registered your learners for the qualification, a Visiting Moderator is allocated to your centre. You will receive a letter confirming their details and the Visiting Moderator will contact you to arrange an initial visit.

Q: How many visits are we allowed a year and are there any additional costs for extra visits?

A: Two. Each academic year (September to August) you are entitled to two free visits per Cambridge Technicals subject. Please see the OCR fees list to obtain the costs for additional moderation visits.

Q: Will OCR ensure that Visiting Moderators accept innovative forms of evidence?

A: Yes. As long as the evidence clearly demonstrates that learners can work independently to the required standard, Visiting Moderators will accept innovative forms of evidence. There are details about what is acceptable in the Cambridge Technicals Centre Handbooks.



Q: How do I know what learners have to do to achieve a unit?

A: Learners need to meet each of the assessment criteria (whether Pass, Merit or Distinction) within the unit specification, i.e. each unit is structured around the principle of hurdled assessment. What this means is that for a Pass grade to be awarded all Pass criteria must be met. For a Merit grade to be awarded all Merit and Pass criteria must be met. For a Distinction grade to be awarded all Distinction, Merit and Pass criteria must be met.

Q: How do I know what evidence a learners need to produce?

A: Each unit specification has an Assessment Guidance section that centres must consider when planning assessment tasks. Particular emphasis should be given to the active verb with each Assessment Criteria, in each assessment criterion. For example, if the action verb is 'explain' learners would need to give an explanation, or if it is 'analyse' they would need to evidence an analysis. OCR is currently producing a glossary of command words which will be available to centres soon. This will give further clarification as to what is required in this area.

Q: Can learners present the same evidence for more than one unit?

A: Yes. All evidence must be clearly referenced. Please note that if evidence is being used for more than one unit it must meet the requirements of the assessment criteria for which it is being generated.

Q: Should learners reference all Pass, Merit and Distinction evidence?

A: Yes. The Unit Recording Sheets require the page number or evidence location. These can be accessed from the qualification pages of the OCR website.

Q: If the Visiting Moderator disagrees with the centre grade, can learners rework the original evidence and resubmit at a later date?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it possible for my Visiting Moderator to moderate partially completed units?

A: No.

Q: Can I ask my Visiting Moderator to visit my centre to moderate only one unit?

A: Yes. But be aware that you are entitled to only two free Visiting Moderator visits per academic year.

Q: My Level 3 learners need to have their results confirmed for UCAS. Is there a deadline by which moderation should be completed?

A: Yes, 30 June 2014.

Q: What can I do if I have registered my learners for the wrong size qualification?

A: You can choose to 'top up' to the next size larger qualification, or 'move down' to the next size smaller qualification. Please see the fees list for full details.





Administration

Q: How do we register learners for Cambridge Technicals?

A: You can register named learners for Cambridge Technicals via OCR Interchange. Unnamed entries are not available with Cambridge Technicals.

Q: Can we register learners for individual units as well as for full qualifications?

A: Yes. This may be useful if learners are not intending to complete the full qualification. However, this can be a more expensive route if learners eventually completes enough units for a full award.

Q: How long after the moderation visit can we expect to receive our certificates?

A: We aim to issue certificates to successful learners within 6 working days after the Visiting Moderator has confirmed your claim.

Grading

Q: How are the units and overall qualifications graded?

A: The units will be graded using Pass, Merit or Distinction. You can see the assessment criteria within the unit specifications on the OCR website.

The overall qualification is graded with Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* by the aggregation of points gained through the successful achievement of individual units. For the qualification grading, please refer to the relevant section of the Centre Handbook to see how this is calculated.

Q: What is the highest qualification grade available for Cambridge Technicals learners?

A: The highest qualification grade that learners can get for Cambridge Technicals is a Distinction*, which in terms of UCAS points is equivalent to an A* at A Level.





Resources

In collaboration with teachers we have developed a suite of free support and learning resources. A range of resources is available but centres need to access the specification pages of the OCR website to determine what resources are available for a particular Technicals subject.

Our resources for Cambridge Technicals Include:

Rules of Combination Calculator – a Microsoft Excel-based tool to help teachers ensure that their learners achieve the required number of credits for their chosen qualification and meet the mandatory requirements. Teachers also have the option to generate a personal printout for learner portfolios or other records.

Progress Tracker – a Microsoft Excel-based tracking document to help teachers monitor their learners' progress throughout the qualification both individually and as a cohort.

***Unit Introduction presentations** – these are short PowerPoint presentations introducing each unit. They look at the skills and knowledge that the learners will gain from the unit and give some content (such as real-life examples or questions) to introduce the learners to the unit's content.

***Delivery Guides** – each guide contains a range of lesson ideas with associated activities that teachers can use with their learners. The guide is structured by learning objective so that teachers can see how each activity helps them cover the specification.

***Lesson elements** – these are task sheets and interactive quizzes with accompanying teacher instructions. Each offers teachers a creative way of encouraging their learners to engage with the topic, with individual and group exercises, research activities and the opportunity to develop English and maths skills.

Resources Link – an e-resource that provides teachers with links to a range of teaching and learning websites and materials. These include videos, data sets and other online content to support teachers with the delivery of their subject.

Skills Guides – these are not specific to a particular qualification, but cover topics that could support a range of qualifications, for example communication, legislation or research skills.

***Hodder Education Dynamic Learning Tool** – we worked together to develop free online resources for the mandatory units, across the Cambridge Technicals. To access these, sign up to teach at: www.cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup.

* For mandatory units only

Q: Will there be a model assignment for every unit?

A: No. We have provided model assignments for both Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. These are available to download from our website and can be either used as they are or tailored to the needs of learners. They can also be used as a benchmark for centres to devise their own assignments or tasks. They show the type of approach you might consider when planning an assessment activity for a particular Cambridge Technicals unit.

Q: Are you going to produce a textbook for Cambridge Technicals?

A: No, currently there are no plans to produce a textbook. However, you may wish to consider the free online resource from Hodder that is available for the mandatory units in a number of Cambridge Technicals subjects.

Teaching and delivery

Q: How do I know the depth I need to go into when teaching each unit?

A: Each unit specification has a section called Teaching Content that specifies the depth of content you must cover for the unit. Anything in the Teaching Content prefixed with 'i.e.' must be taught; anything prefixed with 'e.g.' is given as an example only; other suitable examples could be used instead of the given examples.

Q: Do I have to teach all of the Pass, then the Merit, then the Distinction criteria?

A: You have to teach all of the Teaching Content section of the unit specification. You do not teach to the Pass, Merit, Distinction criteria as grades are achieved when evidence is assessed against the relevant criteria.



Professional development

Q: What support will you be offering to aid delivery of Cambridge Technicals?

A: We've been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its Professional Development Programme more accessible and convenient for all.

We're providing online professional development units that are available when and where you want them, enabling teachers to better understand the specification or keep abreast of any important changes. We will make them available free of charge, online 24/7, allowing you to use them at a time and place to suit you.

Live web broadcasts of professional development events available through webinars, studio discussions or multi-site broadcasts will give you a chance to have your questions answered directly by OCR's qualification and assessment experts.

We will organise large-scale, Premier professional development events. They will be subject-specific events focused on keeping you up to date with the latest developments in your subject area and innovative classroom delivery.

We would like to keep you informed of the upcoming information being released about professional development. In order for us to do so, [register for email updates](#).

Follow us on Twitter: [@ocrexams](#)

Contact our dedicated Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509** or by emailing them on vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk.

Unit development



Q: Will there be a unit covering applications for mobile phones at Level 2 or Level 3?

A: A range of Computing units at Level 2 and Level 3 have been available since September 2013; these cover a range of applications, including mobile phones.



Q: Are there any plans to introduce a Digital Photography unit?

A: A Digital Graphics unit has been available since September; our Cambridge Technicals in Media contain a Photography for Media Products unit.



General questions

A few questions asked do not fit into the previous categories so we've included them below.

Q: Can Cambridge Technicals at Level 2 be taught at KS4? Also, is it worth any performance points?

A: The qualification has been accredited as being suitable for learners aged 16+ and therefore is not included in the 14–16 performance tables.

Q: Do you think it's confusing having Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals for different age groups?

A: Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals are designed to meet the different needs of the 14–16 learner and the 16+ learner. The Government's response to the Wolf Report drew a distinction between the characteristics of vocational qualifications that would be suitable for 14–16-year-olds and those for 16+, so we have created two distinct types of qualification with those differences in mind.

Q: What is the lifespan/shelf life of these qualifications?

A: There is no specified 'shelf life' for a qualification. All qualifications have to be reviewed as part of their life cycle to make sure that they are still relevant and support progression to further study and employment. It is only on the basis of evidence that a qualification no longer meets the needs of the target market that we would end the qualification. In the past, qualifications had an 'end date' stated from the outset, but that is no longer the case.

Q: Are Cambridge Technicals accepted by universities?

A: Yes, the Cambridge Technicals have been awarded UCAS tariff points that are equivalent to similar Level 3 qualifications.

Q: Do Cambridge Technicals have UCAS points?

A: Yes. UCAS points are available for Level 3 qualifications only. To download a detailed pdf [click here](#)

Q: How do Cambridge Technicals compare in size with A Levels?

A: The Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma has the same number of guided learning hours (GLH) as an A Level – 360 GLH – and also has UCAS points. The Distinction* in the Introductory Diploma has the same number of UCAS points as an A* at A Level, and a Pass in the Introductory Diploma has the same number of UCAS points as an E grade.

The following link is to the comparisons with the [UCAS tariff](#).

Q: Need to talk?

A: We hope that this guide has been helpful in answering some of your questions about Cambridge Technicals. We appreciate that there will be more, so if you need any support at all with administering or delivering Cambridge Technicals you can get in touch with us in the following ways:

Phone: **02476 851509**

Email: **vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk**

Q: Feeling social?

A: Please also get involved in the OCR social community for your chosen subjects. We aim for the community to be a place where you can collaborate with your subject colleagues on subjects and discuss education and assessments. It only takes a moment to get set up on the site. Use the link below to take you there.

Also we now have over 3,000 Twitter followers, so make sure that you keep up to date with all our tweets by following [@ocrexams](#).

As well as the above, please also sign up for regular updates through our [email updates system](#).

Or, you can register your intent to deliver Cambridge Technicals by [signing up to teach](#).



Q: What naming convention should be used for Cambridge Technical qualifications in school/college materials such as prospectuses and websites?

A: Some providers of the Cambridge Technical qualification may have been abbreviating it to “Cambridge TEC” or “Cambridge Tech”.

In order to avoid any suggestion of confusion with other similar qualifications and to ensure as far as possible consistent use by all providers, please ensure that you use the full name of **Cambridge Technical** to describe the qualification. Where the abbreviation has been used on a website or other electronic communications, please arrange for it to be amended to the full title as soon as practicable and ensure that future versions of any printed material are also corrected. We hope that this will not cause too much inconvenience.

If you have any queries please contact our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509**.

Q: Why isn't there a Level 3 in Science?

A: We are planning to develop a Level 3 in Science and hope to have it available for first teaching in September 2015. It's our intention to have the specification available towards the end of 2014.