

GCSE CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

This specification aims to encourage students to:

- develop a broad background knowledge and core knowledge of the construction industry;
- apply their developing knowledge in relevant, enjoyable and work-related contexts for craft products and computer aided design (CAD) projects;
- investigate opportunities to progress into further education, training or employment in the construction industry;
- experience success when applying their knowledge in work-related contexts;
- develop and practise the key transferable skills that are important in working life; and
- develop knowledge of the materials and sustainable methods used in domestic and commercial construction.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

The following are important features of this specification.

- It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- It helps raise achievement in a wider range of learners due to its high practical content.
- It encourages a student-centred approach to learning and enables students to apply their developing knowledge in enjoyable and work-related contexts.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Up-to-date content reflecting modern-day practices in the construction industry.
- Focus on development of manufacturing and design skills through exciting practical activities.
- Provides a solid foundation for progression to Level 3 study or apprenticeship programmes.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

This specification encourages students to develop transferable skills that will benefit them in vocational training and employment. It also enables them to progress to studying related courses at higher levels. It builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for students to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities will be dependent on the teaching and learning methodology used.



UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

- Students develop an understanding of construction and the built environment, the importance of health and safety in the construction industry, and the employment opportunities in the industry.
- Students learn to interpret drawings of domestic buildings and demonstrate awareness of the issues surrounding sustainable development in the construction industry.
- Students develop an understanding and a working knowledge of CAD in the construction industry.
- Students complete a project based on one of the following crafts:
 - woodwork; or
 - brickwork or blockwork.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTINGS	AVAILABILITY
Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment	External written examination 1 hour	20%	Summer from 2018
Unit 2: Sustainable Construction	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Paper includes questions based on pre-release materials	30%	Summer from 2019
Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project	Controlled assessment	25%	Summer from 2018
Unit 4: Computer Aided Design in Construction	Controlled assessment	25%	Summer from 2019

SUPPORTING YOU

We also intend to provide:

- past papers;
- mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- Principal Moderator's reports;
- guidance on progression from Key Stage 3;
- planning frameworks;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers; and
- a resource list.

SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017

For first assessment in Summer 2018

For first award in Summer 2019



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