



Rewarding Learning

GCSE

Construction and  
the Built Environment

STUDENT  
GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

This specification aims to encourage you to:

- develop a broad background knowledge and core knowledge of the construction industry;
- apply your developing knowledge in relevant, enjoyable and work-related contexts for craft products and computer aided design (CAD) projects; and
- investigate opportunities to progress into further education, training or employment in the construction industry.

## WHY STUDY CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

You will 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. You will also develop a working knowledge of CAD, which is used throughout the construction industry.

This specification also allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment.

## UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

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



# HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

CONTENT	AREA OF STUDY	ASSESSMENT
<b>Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment</b>	You will 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.	External written examination  1 hour
<b>Unit 2: Sustainable Construction</b>	You will interpret drawings of domestic buildings and demonstrate awareness of the issues surrounding sustainable development in the construction industry.	External written examination  1 hour 30 mins  Paper includes questions based on pre-release materials
<b>Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project</b>	You must complete a project based on one of the following crafts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• woodwork; or</li> <li>• brickwork or blockwork.</li> </ul> <p>The craft project is made up of a product and an evaluation.</p>	Controlled assessment
<b>Unit 4: Computer Aided Design in Construction</b>	You will develop an understanding and a working knowledge of CAD in the construction industry. You will produce a portfolio of work, including working drawings for a domestic building and one detail drawing.	Controlled assessment



Unit 1

**Introduction to the Built Environment**

**20%**



Unit 2

**Sustainable Construction**

**30%**



Unit 3

**The Construction Craft Project**

**25%**



Unit 4

**Computer Aided Design in Construction**

**25%**

# WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for you 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.

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

With a career in construction, you'll be part of a global industry that offers lots of exciting and rewarding construction jobs to choose from.

Around three million people work in construction in the UK, making it one of the nation's biggest and most diverse industries.

There are many ways into construction, whether you've just left school or are a career changer. You might work as a construction apprentice while you study, move further into your chosen field with a degree, or take any of these other routes into the industry.

For more information on a career in construction, see the Construction Industry Training Board and GoConstruct websites at:

[www.citb.co.uk/careers-in-construction/](http://www.citb.co.uk/careers-in-construction/) and  
[www.goconstruct.org/working-in-construction/](http://www.goconstruct.org/working-in-construction/)



