OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in IT (600/4225/4)

Overview

This qualification is designed for students aged 16-19 years old wanting to specialise in the digital and IT industries.

This qualification is for someone who is looking to work in IT within systems, support or digital roles. Due to the nature of IT, the skills that the student will develop through successful completion of these qualifications will enable them to seek employment across different sectors in business regardless of core business.

This qualification gives students solid foundation skills as well as an awareness and understanding of the core skills required for the roles allowing them to progress easily to higher level qualifications and potential specialisms in areas such as network management, web development, and system support.

This qualification has been designed so that it can be delivered in one year. There is no requirement for prior learning.

What does this qualification cover?

The student will need to achieve a minimum of four units to include the two mandatory units. The mandatory units are: Communicating in the IT Industry and Working in the IT Industry, and together these units will develop the student's understanding and ability to communicate to colleagues and customers not only in the IT industry, but with the ability for the skills to be applied more widely.

By completing the Communicating in the IT Industry unit, the student will learn about communication needs and its impact, interpersonal communication and its suitability to audiences or scenarios, written communication and the use of IT to communicate effectively all skills and attributes valued by employers. They will also be able to consider the wider application of IT and the impact on the community.

By completing the Working in the IT Industry unit, the student will understand the characteristics required for employment, both generic and transferable, and sector or role specific. The student will explore the job roles that require more technical IT skills across a range of sectors.

The two optional units are selected from a choice of 28 units and this allows the student scope to choose units that complement each other; for example, hardware and software installation for a more systems or support progression. Alternatively they could choose units that reflect different aspects of the IT/Digital sector, such as Doing Business Online and Mobile Communications Technology or Animation.

The school or college delivering this qualification would be encouraged to develop relationships with local employers and engage them in the delivery of the learning content as this will ensure that the students can appreciate different perspectives and also to identify what is required within a workplace. Schools and colleges are also encouraged to support students who actively seek their own experience and placements.

We've designed this qualification so that schools and colleges can work with employers to create assignments for students to demonstrate they can put their skills and knowledge to use. For example, this

can be to create something, solve a problem or find ways to improve something that would be typical of what happens in jobs in the IT industry. Employers can also get involved in teaching, from explaining the theories behind IT principles and concepts and how they apply to the work they do to talking about what to think about before installing software.

What could this qualification lead to?
This qualification will provide entry to employment through apprenticeships across a range of sectors depending on their preferences. Apprenticeships could include those in IT, Media or Business and support roles with IT such as IT Support, web content management and system development administration.

Regardless of choice for the optional units, the student will be able to take the core knowledge they gain and apply it to a range of progression opportunities or job roles.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of Level 2 Cambridge Technicals in IT. The suite consists of this Extended Certificate and a Diploma.

Both qualifications are designed to be taken alongside other qualifications.

Students should take the Extended Certificate to gain an overview and introduction to the IT industry and roles that are more than simply IT User before deciding to pursue a career in Technology. The Extended Certificate takes 180 guided learning hours to deliver. This means it is a similar size to one and a half GCSEs or one AS level and if delivered in one year takes about one third of the academic year to complete.   This gives the student the flexibility to take a range of other qualifications whether vocational or academic in preparation for further study or employment in the sector or cross sector based on their desired roles.