

Vocational Qualifications (QCF, NVQ, NQF)

Policing

Level 3 Certificate Policing (Police Community Support Officer) – **03358**

Level 3 Diploma Policing – **03463**

Level 4 Certificate Police First Line Management – **04689**

Level 5 Certificate Police Management – **04690**

Level 3 Certificate Knowledge of Policing – **10333**

OCR Report to Centres September 2015

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of candidates of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

© OCR 2015

CONTENTS

QCF, NVQ, NQF

Policing

Level 3 Certificate Policing (Police Community Support Officer) – **03358**

Level 3 Diploma Policing – **03463**

Level 4 Certificate Police First Line Management – **04689**

Level 5 Certificate Police Management – **04690**

Level 3 Certificate Knowledge of Policing – **10333**

OCR REPORT TO CENTRES

Content

Page

Policing Levels 3-5

4

Policing Levels 3-5

Overview

Policing in general is presently undergoing considerable and frequent change as forces look to reduce costs and this has had an impact on the uptake of the qualifications to some extent. Some centres are actively recruiting at the moment and planning for future recruitment, whilst others have no current or planned recruitment. Further budget cuts have had an impact on this as centres seek to make further savings whilst maintaining operational efficiency.

Some centres have used the L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing as a pre-join entry requirement whilst the L3 Diploma and Certificate (PCSO – Police Community Support Officers) qualifications are used by police forces to accredit student officers and PCSOs prior to confirmation as police officers/PCSOs as part of the centre learning programmes.

General Comments

The numbers of candidates on the L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing have remained steady although this may change going forward as candidates wishing to join one particular police force have predominantly taken up this qualification. In addition the introduction of a residency requirement for one force may have a considerable impact on the numbers taking this qualification.

Only one of the Police forces within the country have stipulated the prior achievement of the qualification as a pre-join entry requirement, although this was recommended by the Home Office when the qualification was introduced and this may change as forces change their recruitment policy.

There have been no major issues with the delivery by centres of the qualifications and any minor issues have been resolved satisfactorily by centres. Requests for support have been accommodated to ensure the quality and validity of the qualification.

Candidate numbers for the L3 PCSO have been steady although this has been used predominantly by one centre.

Candidate registrations for the L3 Diploma have also remained steady generally although where there is no recruitment within forces there may be a change in these numbers. The qualification accredits candidates with the minimum requirements to demonstrate competency as a police officer prior to appointment.

Candidate numbers for the L4 Certificate in Police First Line Management and L5 Certificate in Police Management have historically been low, although this may now increase as centres are indicating their preference to use these two qualifications as part of the National Police Promotion Framework (NPPF) which is moving to a competency based assessment model. Some centres are already looking at registrations for the qualifications as part of future planning for both this year and next.

Comments on Individual Units

All units in the L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing are mandatory and there have not been any units that have been problematic for candidates. Evidence presented by candidates for the L3 Certificate have included occupationally relevant scenarios, multiple choice questions, role play, written questions and essays.

All of the units in L3 Certificate in Policing (PCSO) and L3 Diploma in Policing are mandatory and centres do not generally have any issues with the units as they are directly related to the roles that all student officers/PCSOs undertake as part of their probationary training and assessment. Where there have been queries these have been swiftly resolved to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged.

The L3 PCSO and Diploma evidence has all been assessed in the workplace by experienced and trained or qualified assessors. The holistic use of evidence has been seen in both these qualifications with clear evidence of internal quality assurance activity.

The L4 qualification consists of six mandatory units and the L5, five mandatory units and additional credits from optional units and centres have not identified any issues with the assessment requirements.

Evidence presented by candidates for all of the qualifications has included both electronic and paper and is on the whole of a high standard.

Sector Update

All of the qualifications are due to be revised in line with Skills for Justice and College of Policing requirements and the current L3, 4 and 5 qualifications are due to expire with the last registrations being December 31st 2015. The L3 Certificate in Policing expires 30th November 2016.

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

OCR Customer Contact Centre

Skills and Employment

Telephone: 02476 851509

Fax: 02476 421944

Email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England
Registered Office; 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU
Registered Company Number: 3484466
OCR is an exempt Charity

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
Head office
Telephone: 01223 552552
Facsimile: 01223 552553

© OCR 2015

