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# OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT (600/4776/8)

## Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for students aged 14–16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

## What will the student study as part of this qualification?

Students will take four topics in total.
All students will study two, mandatory, topics. The first topic of study is on computer systems. This will cover:

- the different types of computer and mobile devices such as personal computers, smartphones, tablets and cloud technologies
- networks, operating systems, software, communication and data sharing
- how systems are used securely
- the legal, ethical and safety implications.

The second topic of study is on using ICT to create business solutions, for example, a budget schedule or formatting information and using graphics in a report. Students will learn how to complete everyday business tasks using different types of ICT software, such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation and web design.

In addition, students will have a choice of two optional topics to study from the following areas:

- a business information systems strand that includes handling data using spreadsheets and databases
- a creative strand including developing interactive products, digital images, sound and vision products
- a project approach giving them the opportunity to choose and research an aspect of ICT in which they are interested, for example, looking into the technology used in social networking, why that technology is used and its pros and cons.

## What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

In the first two topics students will develop their knowledge of the main functional areas in ICT, for example, web development, communication functions, and information systems support and security. They will gain a detailed knowledge of ICT's potential that will enable them to use it more effectively. The type of knowledge and practical skills the student will develop through these two topics includes knowing which software is the most appropriate for a task and being able to use that software's range of tools and features. They will also know how to use different formatting techniques effectively. This should help them to complete tasks that are typical in the workplace and be innovative when using technology. The set of underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills students develop will help them to go on to complete their other topics.

Depending on the options chosen, a student will develop a range of additional skills and knowledge.

From the business information systems strand, a student will be able to process and present data to support their decision-making process in real life scenarios. They will learn how to test and interrogate a database and how they are developed to meet individuals or organisational need.

From the creative strand, they will gain the skills to be able to create websites, apps, games and videos. Students will use skills such as identifying success criteria, site navigation, creative design planning and system testing techniques. They will acquire an understanding of the legal requirements associated with what they are doing.

In taking the project topic option, students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, project management processes such as initiating, researching, planning and reviewing projects.

The ICT-based skills and knowledge that students will acquire through this qualification provide a valuable basis for those wanting to progress on to a career in the information technology industry. In addition, the ability to use ICT more effectively and the essential transferable skills including planning, research and analysis, working with other people and successful communication that the student will develop, will be very relevant to work or going on to further study.

**Which subjects will complement this course?**

This qualification is complemented by a wide range of GCSEs including Business, Economics, Computer Science, Maths and English. The qualification is designed with both creative and practical elements that complement creative subjects such as Art and Design where digital imagery is a popular area, or Media where there are many crossovers in the creation of dynamic multimedia products using audio, visual and gaming practices. Engineering is a more practical subject where ICT has crossover; where information technology and computing are key elements in many parts of engineering process such as design, prototyping and production.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of Level 1/2 Cambridge Nationals in ICT. The suite consists of this Certificate, an Award, and a Diploma.

The Award is 60 GLH, which is only half of the time it takes to deliver a GCSE and made up of only two topics. The two topics are the same as those required for the Certificate and Diploma, which are, *Understanding computer systems* and *Using ICT to create business solutions*. These two topics will give a student a core understanding of the IT environment and the benefits of effective usage, providing an essential foundation of knowledge on which to grow and support their further study.

The Certificate is 120 GLH, equivalent in size to one GCSE and made up of four topics. All students take the two mandatory topics and a further two from the list of optional topics.

The Diploma is 240 GLH, equivalent in size to two GCSEs and made up of eight topics. To achieve a Diploma all students must take the same two mandatory topics required for the Certificate and then choose six topics from the list of optional topics. By taking a larger number of topics a student will be able to explore more introductory pathways within the IT sector to gain a broader and deeper knowledge and understanding of a greater range of IT skills and technologies.

Schools and Colleges should note that the Certificate-sized qualification is the only qualification in this suite that is eligible for inclusion in Performance Tables.