Qualification awaiting accreditation

CAMBRIDGE OCR

Sample assessment material

Instructions for teachers

Cambridge OCR Level 3 V Level in

Digital Systems and Data

H101

Unit F018: Application of cyber security

Version 0.1 | November 2026

ocr.org.uk/V Levels

Introduction

These are the instructions for teachers to accompany the sample Cambridge OCR-set assignment.

Summary of updates

Section	Change	Version	Date
N/A	First draft – Awaiting accreditation.	0.1	4th November 2026

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Sample assessment material

Instructions for teachers

Cambridge OCR Level 3 V Level in Digital Systems and Data

Unit F018: Application of cyber security

Scenario Title: Northbridge Training Services

These are the instructions for teachers to accompany the sample Cambridge OCR-set assignment.

For use by students beginning the qualification in <month> 20XX.

The Cambridge OCR-set assignment is valid for assessment from <month> 20XX to <month>20XX.

Marks must be submitted by 15 May 20XX

The sample assignment **must not** be used for live assessment of students.

Sample

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Sample

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Information and instructions for teachers

Using the Cambridge OCR-set assignment

The assignment for students for this unit will be available on Teach Cambridge from <month> 20XX. The dates for which the assignment may be used for assessment are on the front cover.

The assignment is available to support teacher preparation and planning.

We have estimated that this assignment will take about 15 hours of supervised time to complete.

You **must not** share the assignment with students before the live assessment sessions you have scheduled. Students are expected to complete several weeks of teaching and preparation before beginning the assessment and this should be focussed on the unit content, not the live assignment.

You must keep the assignment secure before assessment sessions begin. When planning, you must define the full period during which students will complete the assignment. Students must not have access to the assignment outside this period, unless they are completing a reattempt in accordance with the reattempt arrangements.

You must ensure that you have completed assessment and all internal processes to meet the marks submission deadline of 15 May 20XX.

The assignment provides a scenario and set of related tasks.

- Task 1 will require students to: interpret system behaviour and activities, identifying indicators of potential compromise, cyber security concerns, and their potential business and operational impacts.
  We estimate this task will take 3 hours to complete.

- Task 2 will require students to: assess cyber security risks, determine escalation requirements, justify decisions and communicate findings.
  We estimate this task will take 5 hours to complete.

- Task 3 will require students to: recommend and implement security controls and procedures to address cyber security concerns, justifying actions using available evidence and risk assessment findings.
  We estimate this task will take 7 hours to complete.

The assignment:

- Is written so that students have the opportunity to meet the requirements of all marking criteria for the unit.
- Will tell students if their evidence must be in a specific format. If the task does not specify a format, students can choose the format to use.
- **Must** be completed under teacher supervision. Any unsupervised time allowed will be stated below and explained in the assessment guidance.
- Contains 4 synoptic marks. These are indicated with an (S).

Sample

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You **must**:

- Use a Cambridge OCR-set assignment for summative assessment of students.
- Familiarise yourself with the marking criteria and assessment guidance for the tasks. These are given at the end of each student task. They are also with the unit content in **Section 3** of the Specification.
  Assessment guidance is only given where additional information is needed. There might not be assessment guidance for each criterion.
- Read and understand **all** the rules and guidance in **Section 5** of the Specification **before** your students start the set assignment.
- Make sure that your students complete the tasks and that you assess the tasks fully in line with the rules and guidance in **Section 5** of the Specification.
- Give your students the **Digital Systems and Data Student guide to NEA assignments before** they start the assignment.

You **must not**:

- Use live Cambridge OCR-set assignments for practice or formative assessment. This sample assessment material **can** be used for practice or formative assessment.
- Use this sample assessment material for live assessment of students.
- Allow group work for **any** task in this assignment.
- Change any part of the Cambridge OCR-set assignments or marking criteria.

Sample

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Information for delivering tasks

Task	Requirements and resources
Task 3	Task 3 requires students to apply their recommended protective actions and security improvements in a digital system or digital environment. This **must** include: • Applying authentication and secure access measures. • Applying user account, permission or security setting configurations. • Applying system maintenance or update procedures. • Applying data protection or access control measures. The application of these measures must involve practical activity completed by the student. The protective actions and security improvements applied by students must be ones that they can demonstrate using the resources available at the centre. The application does not have to be completed in the context of the scenario or using a digital system with the same level of complexity as the organisation's systems described in the scenario. Centres may use alternative digital systems, platforms or environments where these allow students to demonstrate the practical skills required by the assessment criteria.
Task 3	Teacher observation is required for each student as evidence of the practical activities completed when applying recommended security controls, protection measures, and procedures for secure access, authentication and system use (Task 3 Topic C). The teacher observation record must describe the practical activities completed and how the student applied the required security measures and procedures and whether their use was appropriate to the required task. For this task, students must also provide evidence such as videos and/or photos showing them applying the recommended protective actions and security improvements. You will find the teacher observation record form in the set assignment.

Sample

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