

Diploma Update Edition 16

Diploma Open Days

We understand that the Diplomas can sometimes be complex and why not drop in to one of our regional offices and find out more about the Diplomas and what AQA – City & Guilds has to offer. These events are open to all people interested in Diplomas, delivering the Diplomas, or for those who would like to speak to the Diploma team.

The dates and locations are as follows:

Wakefield	11 February 2009
St Ives	3 March 2009
Birmingham	6 March 2009
London	20 February 2009

We look forward to seeing you there to help make your understanding of the Diplomas easier.

Diploma Launch Events - Autumn Term 2008

Autumn teacher support meetings for all of the AQA- City & Guilds Diploma lines of learning have been taking place over the country this term. These free of charge, full day meetings started at the end of September and will run until the first week in December. There have been 56 events in total across England and we have had just over 700 teachers registered.

The aim of these sessions is to offer teachers an introduction to the Diploma specifications at all three levels on the same day. This introduction includes a look at the assessment structure, content and resources for each of the Principal Learning elements, as well as offering teachers an opportunity to explore the wider context of the Diploma and its component parts. Each event is run by either the Chair of Examiners or by one of the Senior Examining or Moderating team.

Plans are now underway for the next phase of free of charge support for consortia starting to teach AQA- City & Guilds lines of learning in September 2009. It is hoped to be able to start these events in the spring term for the majority of lines.

On-screen testing for Diplomas

Young people of today use technology (computers, mobile phones, hand-held devices, e-books, online communities) in ways that were not conceived of when the technologies were first introduced. They are the 'digital natives': they inhabit the technology in a way that older people (even the most tecchie amongst us) struggle to comprehend.

From June 2009 onwards the following Phase 1 Diploma tests will be available as both paper-based or as an on-screen option for the following:

- Construction and the Built Environment CBE1U4 and CBE2U7
- Creative and Media CAM1U4
- Engineering ENG1U1
- Information Technology IN1U3W



All tests will be the same, consisting of a mixture of short and medium answer questions. They are not only multiple-choice, online and automatically marked by the computer, real people are involved.

We are also currently looking at possibilities for on-screen tests for Phase 2 and Phase 3 Diplomas.

Find out more

- To register an interest in On-screen testing for Diplomas and for information on how to get started, telephone 01483 556 208.
- For some general information on AQA's On-screen tests log on to Ask AQA for Teachers: www.aqa.org.uk/askaqa.php
- Updates and news will be published in the Diploma newsletter and on the Diploma website: www.diplomainfo.org.uk

Diploma Team

We have recently appointed Diploma Customer Relationship Managers who will be working in conjunction with our Diploma Advisors to help you through the Diploma process. They will be attending consortium meetings, teacher support meetings and making contact with 14-19 coordinators and Diploma practitioners in schools and colleges. Our Diploma support networks are:

Carol Pillinger - Diploma Advisor for Eastern regions

Carola Eason - Diploma Advisor for London and South East regions

Kirsten Train – Diploma Customer Relationship Manager for Southern, London and South East, Eastern regions

Julia Dingle – Diploma Advisor for Yorkshire and Humberside, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire regions

Lisa Rockett – Diploma Customer Relationship Manager for North East, Yorkshire, East Midlands, Eastern regions

Michael Bridgman - Diploma Advisor for North West regions

Rachael Fell – Diploma Advisor for Midlands and Manchester regions

Sally Butler – Diploma Advisor South West regions

Sheila Barraclough – Diploma Customer Relationship Manager for North West, West Midlands, South West regions

If you would like a visit from a member of our Diploma Team or information about the Diplomas please contact us by ringing 08700 24 24 66 or emailing Debbie Addison debbie.addison@cityandguilds.com.

New Environment and Land-Based Studies Imagery

The design of the wheelbarrow itself is unchanged, but we have loaded it with objects which help offer a clearer insight into the different themes this Diploma covers. Included are technical images such as wind turbines, barometers, rain gages alongside the more traditional objects associated with this industry. This will be able to be viewed on the website within a week or two.

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Development

The Development Team have been working with the writers on the third lines of learning specifications in Public Services, Retail Business, Sport and Active Leisure and Travel and Tourism as well as the re-submission of Society, Health and Development and Manufacturing and Product Design to QCA.

Materials available on the website

Our website www.diplomainfo.org.uk is dedicated to provide you with an abundance of information which you will find useful new information available include:

External Sample Assessment Material (SAMs) for Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Engineering and IT visit <http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/315.asp>

Internal SAMs for Construction and the Built Environment visit <http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/468.asp>

Final draft units for Business, Administration and Finance, Environmental and Land-based Studies, Hair and Beauty Studies, and Hospitality Principal Learning visit <http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/AQA-City-and-guilds-diploma-lines-of-learning.asp>). Hard copies of these specifications will be available at the beginning of next year.

Inductive pricing for Principal Learning, Projects and certificates visit http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/indicative_prices.asp

You can also download an example of the Level 2 creative and media student handbook which takes the student through unit by unit outlining what needs to be worked on for the Diploma visit <http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/creative-and-media.asp>

Events

Diploma Extravaganza Medway Education Business Partnership

Date: 17th November

Venue: The Corn Exchange, Rochester

Kriss Akabusi, the Olympic Medallist, will be giving his inspirational presentations at intervals throughout the day. A host of specialists will be on hand to give advice and provide materials about the qualification. The Diploma Extravaganza aims to raise awareness of the new qualification to students, schools, parents and employers.

MEBP provides a range of services for pupils of all ages, their teachers, employers and members of the community. Their main focus for key stage 4 is on the four areas:

- Work Experience
- Professional Development Placements for Teachers, Tutors and other professionals
- Work-related Learning and Enterprise - activities to support the new entitlement for students at KS4
- Employer engagement

Diplomas and HE Progression and Curriculum

Date: 6 November

Venue: Thistle Hotel, Bristol

The Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network (WVLLN) in conjunction with the regional local authority 14-19



advisors, Aimhigher and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust are organising Diplomas and Higher Education Progression and Curriculum conference.

The one day event brings together admissions staff and academics from higher education with regional Diploma consortia to develop curriculum and progression links for students studying the newly launched Diplomas for 14-19 year-olds.

Career Guidance Conference & Exhibition 2008 (ICG)

Date: 13-14 November

Venue: Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

The Institute of Career Guidance is the largest professional association for guidance practitioners in the UK.

This annual event provides inspirational keynotes, a mix of workshops to support CPD (continuous professional development) and social activity.

Around 300 delegates attending (Practitioners, Career Guidance professionals, Universities, 14-19 Education professionals)

Springboard Charitable Trust & Springboard UK Ltd

19th November - Midlands - Birmingham

26th November - South West

Springboard is now recognised as one of the UK's leading support programmes for Hospitality and Leisure as well as for Travel and Tourism.

The programme will help extend the full and part time opportunities for work experience to young people and adults.

Salon International

City & Guilds had a successful show at this year's Salon International. AQA-City & Guilds were promoting the new 14-19 Diplomas and delivering a number of valuable one-to-one consultations. A number of centres and consortia took the opportunity to speak to members of the City & Guilds staff and Diploma Advisors and ask any questions they had regarding the Principal Learning and Additional and Specialist Learning. The centres found this opportunity very helpful and the Diploma was very well received.

Diploma Team

We have recently appointed Diploma Customer Relationship Managers who will be working in conjunction with our Diploma Advisors to help you through the Diploma process. They will be attending consortium meetings, teacher support meetings and making contact with 14-19 coordinators and Diploma practitioners in schools and colleges. Our Diploma support networks are:

Carol Pillinger - Diploma Advisor for Eastern regions

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If you would like a visit from a member of our Diploma Team or information about the Diplomas please contact us by ringing 08700 24 24 66 or emailing Debbie Addison debbie.addison@cityandguilds.com.

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New Diploma website

We have spruced up our website to make it more user-friendly and informative than ever.

Now you can easily:

- download specifications
- book a visit from a Diploma Advisor
- sign up for our Diploma qualifications
- read about our Diploma qualifications
- stay informed with our articles and papers
- learn more about each Diploma component
- read about the finer details of our Diploma offering
- view upcoming national and Teacher Support event dates
- preview Nelson Thornes AQA-City online learning space
- sign up to receive our e-updates and view past issues

Visit www.diplomainfo.org.uk to get all the Diploma information you need.

If you would like to provide some feedback on our new site, email us on queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

Introductory teacher support events

AQA-City & Guilds is offering FREE support events for the new Diplomas being taught from September 2009 onwards. To help familiarise practitioners with the new qualifications and their delivery, AQA-City & Guilds are running a series of introductory support meetings developed specifically for those who will be teaching the 2009 Diplomas. Sessions will be led by AQA/City & Guilds subject specialists and will cover all three levels of this new award. For dates and booking details visit <http://www.diplomainfo.org.uk/eventscalendar.html#>

If you are unable to make these events we are also offering FREE bespoke events. These events will be run by our friendly Diploma Advisors and are offered to anyone who will be involved in the Diploma. To book your event email: diplomadvisors@cityandguilds.com

Salon International

Salon International will be returning to ExCeL London for three days this October (18th to 20th).

A huge line-up of global brands is promised with exhibitors showcasing their latest products and techniques, live catwalk shows, demonstrations from some of the biggest names in hairdressing, and various seminars happening throughout.

For more information and ticket bookings, please visit the website: <http://www.salonexhibitions.co.uk/>

Unique Learner numbers

The ULN is a compulsory element of the 14-19 Diplomas. It is required by all the awarding bodies involved for the aggregation of any achievement that will contribute to a Diploma. As a CAB (Component Awarding Body) we send Additional Specialist Learning (ASL) achievement to the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS). The DAS's role is to manage each learner's individual record, notifying the relevant Diploma Awarding Body (DAB) when a learner has completed all the elements required for a full Diploma. The DAB can then issue the final Diploma certificate.

For more information on the ULN please visit <http://www.miap.gov.uk>. This website contains all the information you will need to generate ULNs for your candidates.

QCA accredits City & Guilds Engineering qualifications for use as Additional & Specialist Learning

City & Guilds are pleased to receive accreditation for six new qualifications which can be used as Additional and Specialist Learning to compliment the Engineering Diploma.

The new qualifications are:

- Level 2 Award in Engineering Practice
- Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Practice
- Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering Practice
- Level 3 Award in Engineering Practice
- Level 3 Certificate in Engineering Practice
- Level 3 Diploma in Engineering Practice

Pathways within these qualifications include:

- Specialist
- Applied Science
- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Manufacturing
- Operations and Maintenance
- Electrical and Mechanical

These new qualifications, which will be available for teaching from September 2008, provide learners with the opportunity to undertake Specialist Learning in a chosen aspect of Engineering. The content and structure of this qualification allow it to be used as the Specialist Learning component within the Engineering Diploma. It can also act as Additional Learning within the Diploma for other lines of learning and also independently as a specialist City & Guilds qualification.

Stop Press

- For anyone who is interested, Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) on the 1st lines of learning (IT, CBE, C&M Engineering) are now available to download on the website.
- 2nd lines of learning units are now available on the website. After clicking 'Our Diploma' on the tool bar, the units can be found in the individual lines of learning list on the bottom right of the page. The Creative & Media student draft handbook can also be found above the units, using these instructions.

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QCA accredits further AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas

AQA-City & Guilds have received accreditation from QCA for their new Diplomas in:

- Business Administration and Finance
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Hair and Beauty Studies
- Hospitality

These new Diplomas, which will be available for teaching from September 2009, complement the four AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas launched last year in Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment, IT and Creative and Media.

By combining their expertise and reputation for quality in the vocational and schools market, AQA and City & Guilds have developed high quality products that offer flexibility and choice for 14-19 year olds and other learners. AQA-City & Guilds have worked closely with the regulator and Diploma Development Partners to ensure that the Diplomas they are launching today represent class-leading products for the industry and for the learner.

Diploma Consortium Expression of Interest form

AQA-City & Guilds Diploma Consortium Expression of Interest forms are now available for gateway approved consortia. These formalise your expression of interest in our Diploma qualification(s), as well as ensuring that we send you all relevant information and provide you with the support you need to succeed in the imminent 2008 delivery.

If you have chosen AQA-City & Guilds for any of the Diplomas, please complete this form

<https://secure.aqa.org.uk/consortium/index.php>.

AQA-City & Guilds and Nelson Thornes

AQA-City & Guilds are working in partnership with Nelson Thornes to support the Principal Learning component of the Diplomas. Together we are providing online teaching and learning materials for Foundation, Higher and Advanced Levels of the first four lines of the AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas available for teaching from September 2008. Visit www.nelsonthornes.com/diplomas.

£60 million capital boost to create Diploma showpieces

Ministers announced on the 15 July 2008 that a further £60 million will be allocated to teaching the Diploma. 'This is additional money to create world class exemplar facilities and comes on top of the £24 billion capital funding made available over the next three years for investment across schools and further education.' For more information on this press release visit: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0152

Expo

Diploma Advisors took to the road with the AQA - Expo kicking off at Arsenal Emirates Stadium in London then tackling Newcastle St James's Park; Manchester Aston Villa; Birmingham; Sheffield; Exeter and running back to Emirates for the final score - Diploma Advisors 4 - teachers - 3,000.

The Diploma stand was right in the midst of the Expo flanked by Extended Project and Functional Skills qualifications so teachers could get all they needed in one place at one time and take away exactly what they wanted, with the help of a free USB stick.

Teachers could also take a seat and talk one to one with Diploma Advisors or Subject Specialists. Around 600 teachers also chose to join in the seminar presentations. Carola Eason, Diploma Advisor for London and the South East said: "There was such a difference in levels of familiarity with Diplomas and even the Gateway processes that audiences really appreciated getting the key points covered in the seminar and then spending time talking about their own specific situations".

If you missed Diplomas at the AQA-Expo you have a chance to catch up by checking out the online Expo featuring video extracts from Carola's presentation together with presentation notes and other materials. Visit www.aqa.org.uk

Events

AQA-City & Guilds are sponsoring '**Delivering Diplomas for 2009**' conference on 30 September 2008. Carola Eason, one of our Diploma Advisors will be a panel member for a Diploma discussion. This one day conference focuses on the next round of Diploma implementation and roll-out for 2009. Visit www.emapconferences.co.uk/diplomas/.

We will also be attending the following events:

SecEd – Delivering Diplomas: Breaking down the lines	1 September	Aston Conference Centre, Birmingham
Neil Stewarts Associates – 3 rd Annual 14-19 Diplomas Conference	16 September	Central London
Emap Delivering Diplomas Conference for 2009	20 September	Earls Court, Central London
Institute of Careers Guidance	13 -14 November	Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

For more information about the above events please visit www.diplomainfo.org.uk.

Functional Skills

Functional Skills qualifications are a mandatory part of Generic Learning in all Diplomas and are offered at both AQA and City & Guilds in order to tailor the qualification better to your learner's needs.

Nominated centres in consortia that are delivering Diplomas from September 2008 can now join **AQA's Functional Skills** pilots in English, Maths and ICT.

As well as ongoing support from AQA you will also have the option of on-screen testing in some units and you will receive free 'taster' resources from Nelson Thornes.

AQA's website – www.aqa.org.uk – provides:

- specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes
- newsletters
- sign-up forms, to register on the Functional Skills pilots
- tailored support and advice from Ask AQA.

For further information or advice please contact AQA's Functional Skills team

Email: functionalskills@aqa.org.uk Telephone: 0161 953 7588

City & Guilds Functional Skills consists of centre-marked, task based assessments set on realistic problems. All marking takes place within the centre, allowing candidates immediate feedback. English, Maths and ICT Pilots are offered at:

- Level 1 for Diplomas at Level 1
- Level 2 for Diplomas at Level 2 and 3.

Functional Skills support and materials include:

- 1) Functional skills webpage, which contains
 - newsletters
 - Functional Skills handbook
 - sample assessments
 - live assessments
 - useful Functional Skills links
- 2) monthly e-bulletins
- 3) external verifier visits
- 4) FunctionalSkills@cityandguilds.com email address dedicated to Functional Skills enquiries
- 5) support from Regional Offices for approvals
- 6) some centre visits from central team
- 7) centre briefings - will be held in October/November 2008

For information about the City & Guilds pilot visit www.cityandguilds.com/functionalskills

Employer engagement

A large part of the Diploma is to incorporate work-related learning and what we have been hearing from consortia and teachers is the difficulty around this. AQA-City & Guilds provide links to industry speakers through our partnership with [Growing Ambitions](#). Also, available are DCSF materials such as:

- Work-related Learning Guide – First Edition
- Quality Standard for Work Experience
- National Standard for Education Business Partnership Organisations (EBPOs)

To access PDFs of the DCSF material visit:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/1419/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=49&pid=404&ctype=None&ptype=Contents#WRL_guide

14 - 19 teaching certificate launch

In September 2008, City & Guilds will be looking to centres to pilot the new Level Five certificate in teaching the 14 – 19 Diplomas.

A key part of this has been to develop a specialist qualification for the teaching workforce, ensuring that it reflects the generic skills, knowledge and attributes required to deliver the Diploma as outlined in the *Excellence in Applied Learning* and *Training and Development Guidance Reports* and will complement existing continuing professional development (CPD) structures and pathways.

This CPD module will consist of a number of units of assessment to reflect six key skills and attributes needed to deliver the Diplomas:

- personalised learning;
- assessment;
- generic learning skills;
- information, advice and guidance;
- working collaboratively;
- developing reflective practice.

If you are interested in getting involved in the pilot from September 2008, please e-mail qtls@cityandguilds.com stating all of your centre details as well as an estimate of potential learner numbers. As City & Guilds is currently submitting a tender to LLUK to carry out the pilots, we cannot guarantee that this tender will be successful and therefore are not at a stage yet where we can guarantee your centre can run this programme from September.



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AQA Expo 08

AQA Expo 08 is an exciting opportunity for 14-19 Education professionals to find out about Diplomas. There will be a stand and Diploma Advisors there who will be giving 45 minute seminar presentations at each event. If you would like more information about the AQA Expo [click here](#). Below are a list of locations and dates for each event.

City	Venue	Date
London	Arsenal Emirates Stadium	06 June
Newcastle	Newcastle United St James' Park	10 June
Manchester	Ramada Jarvis Piccadilly Plaza	13 June
Sheffield	Don Valley Stadium	16 June
Birmingham	Aston Villa Football Club, Villa Park	18 June
Exeter	Mercure Southgate Hotel	01 July
London	Arsenal Emirates Stadium	04 July

We are also holding free 'Preparing to teach' events for those teaching in September 2008 and Functional Skills assessment support events for centres taking part in the City & Guilds Functional Skills pilot. For more information [click here](#).

Development

The Development team are working on submitting Principal Learning units and Sample Assessment Material (SAMs) final versions on 9 June to QCA. Accreditation approval will be available on 27 June.

Sales and Marketing

AQA-City & Guilds have expanded their team of regional support to help centres make the right decision. Below is a list of Diploma Advisors and Sales Coordinators. Diploma Advisors will be out in regions speaking to consortia. The Sales Coordinators are based in City & Guilds regional offices and will be supporting Diploma Advisors.

Diploma Advisor	Region
Rachel Fell	North West, Midlands, and Central Southern England (Oxfordshire, Northants, Bucks and Berkshire)
Sally Butler	South West (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset)
Carola Eason	London, South East, East of England (Hertfordshire, Essex, Thames, Bedfordshire)
Julia Dingle	East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East and East of England (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire)

To contact a Diploma Advisor email Joe Bell Yorkshire@cityandguilds.com



Sales Coordinator	Region	Email	Telephone
Joe Bell	Yorkshire	yorkshire@cityandguilds.com	01924 206700
Richard French	Eastern	eastern@cityandguilds.com	01480 308300
Deborah Wray	East Midlands	eastmidlands@cityandguilds.com	(0)1773 842 900
Sue Bridge	North West	salesnw@cityandguilds.com	0)1925 897 900
Lisa Simmonette	North East	newcastle@cityandguilds.com	0)191 402 5100
Emma Hartland	South West	swregion@cityandguilds.com	01823 722200
Ewa Jurgielaniec	Southern	southern@cityandguilds.com	0207 294 2468
Louisa Jenner	London and SE	londonandsoutheast@cityandguilds.com	0207 294 8139
Scott Oakley	West Midlands	birmingham@cityandguilds.com	(0)121 5038900

Further information

Visit our website: www.diplomainfo.org.uk

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Teacher support events

We are running FREE 'Preparing to Teach' support events for those teaching in September 2008. They cover all three levels of the Diploma and will look at assessments, teaching, learning and scheduling. [Click here](#) to book your place.

Construction and the Built Environment

Thursday 15 May	London
Monday 2 June	Warrington
Tuesday 3 June	Birmingham

Creative and Media

Thursday 15 May	Birmingham/Bournville
Tuesday 20 May	York
Tuesday 17 June	London

Engineering

Friday 09 May	Derby/Alfreton
Tuesday 20 May	London
Friday 23 May	Warrington
Wednesday 04 June	Birmingham/Bourneville

IT

Tuesday 17 June	Manchester
Thursday 19 June	London
Friday 20 June	Stafford

Teacher Support events for the next six Diploma qualifications will be in the autumn.

City & Guilds Functional Skills events

Functional Skills assessment support events are being held for centres taking part in the City & Guilds Functional Skills pilot.

These are all-day events, priced at £65 per person, including lunch and materials. [Click here](#) for more information and a booking form.



Diploma advisors

Rachel Fell and Sally Butler have joined Carola Eason and Julia Dingle as our two newly appointed Diploma Advisors covering the regions below:

Diploma Advisor	Region
Rachael Fell	North West, Midlands, and Central Southern England (Oxfordshire, Northants, Bucks and Berkshire)
Sally Butler	South West (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset)
Carola Eason	London, South East, East of England (Hertfordshire, Essex, Thames, Bedfordshire)
Julia Dingle	East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East and East of England (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire)

If you would like a visit or speak to one of the Diploma Advisors then simply email diplomamarketing@aqg.org.uk

Development

All Principal Learning units and a selection of Sample Assessment Materials (SAMS) at all three levels were submitted to QCA on 27 March 2008. Accreditation announcements for the following will be on 27 June 2008:

- Business, Administration and Finance
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Hair and Beauty Studies
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing and Product Design
- Society, Health and Development

Latest DCSF news

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is an invaluable source of information for the Diplomas. They are a government department that now has responsibility for the Diplomas. The DCSF looks at creating opportunities for young people that motivate and engage them into future success. More information about the DCSF and Diplomas can be found on www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19.

Gateway 2 process

357 consortia (schools, colleges, local authorities and training providers) applied to the DCSF to deliver in September 2009 (Gateway 2) for the 10 Diploma qualifications.

On 19 March 2008, the results for submitted applications were publicised and 317 consortia were successful.



Of the 317 consortia, five have been approved to deliver Diplomas in all 10 subject areas: Barnsley, Kingswood, Plymouth, Sunderland and Wolverhampton. More information about the Gateway 2 process can be found on the [DCSF website](#).

Funding support

For every consortium that was approved for 2009 delivery, the consortium's Local Authority will receive £30,000 grant. The funding will be included as an addition to the Diploma formula grant which Local Authorities receive in September 2008 and March 2009.

Further information

Visit our website: www.diplomainfo.org.uk



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Congratulations

AQA-City & Guilds congratulates all those consortia who have been successful in the Gateway 2 application process! We are here to offer you **support and guidance** to ensure that your Diploma journey is as smooth as possible. We look forward to working with you.

AQA and City & Guilds are taking this opportunity to build on what **we already know** – the 14-19 learner groups. AQA is the leading provider of academic qualifications and City & Guilds leads the work-relevant qualifications market. Together we offer the **best of both worlds**. AQA and City & Guilds provide the widest range of subjects and the highest standards of quality for the Diplomas. This is why we make the ideal choice for delivering the Diplomas

We have a **dedicated team** to help Gateway 2 consortia prepare for delivery in 2009. As with all Gateway 1 consortia, AQA-City & Guilds are offering a high level of personal support. Over the last year we have been providing support to the Gateway 1 consortia through:

- A series of FREE regional Teacher Support events
- Dedicated Diploma Advisors in regional areas
- An email address to answer all your questions about Diplomas – queries@diplomainfo.org.uk with expert information and advice from our Diploma Development team
- Information on our website outlining events for which we can be found

If you would like to contact a Diploma Advisor then simply go to our [Diploma Advisors](#) page to locate an advisor in your area.

You can also keep up-to-date with all our developments, events and activities by signing up to receive our [e-updates](#).

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Second Phase Development

The AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas team are currently developing the 2nd five lines of learning along with Society, Health and Development and submitted their first draft to QCA in January. Final submission for the following lines of learning will be in March 2008.

- Business, Administration and Finance
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Hair and Beauty Studies
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing and Product Design
- Society, Health and Development

Accreditation for the 2nd phase will be announced at the end of June 2008. Further details will be sent to all Gateway 1 and Gateway 2 approved centres, as they become available, from April 2008.

Support Materials

Information for the first lines of learning, Principal Learning and Additional / Specialist Learning pathways are available on the www.diplomainfo.org.uk website in the qualifications section for each line of learning.

Principal Learning and Sample Assessment Material Specifications

Phase 1 Principal Learning specifications are now available and can be ordered via the 'Ask AQA' <http://www.aqa.org.uk/rn/askaqa.php> website. They can also be viewed on our website www.diplomainfo.org.uk/qualifications. Thank you for your patience while we complete our Sample Assessment material. We will distribute the full Principal Learning specifications this month, and the Sample Assessment materials in March.

UCAS Tariff Points Announced

UCAS has confirmed a maximum of 420 UCAS points for a Level 3 Advanced Diploma as a whole, which is equivalent to 3.5 GCE A Levels.

Advanced Diploma	Principal and Generic Learning	300 points for Grade A
	Additional and Specialist Learning	120 points maximum for qualifications already in the Tariff

Points for A* will be determined in 2008, other grades on same basis as for A level programmes.

More information can be found in the Diplomas section of the UCAS website www.ucas.com

League Tables

Discussions are continuing but broad equivalences have been agreed. In each case actual point scores may vary depending on grades obtained.

- Level 1 Foundation Diploma equivalent to 5 GCSEs (grades D-G)
- Level 2 Higher Diploma equivalent to 7 GCSEs
- Level 3 Advanced Diploma equivalent to 3.5 GCE A Levels

Please visit the DCSF website for more detailed information.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?sid=3&pid=365&ctype=TEXT&ptype=Single>

Funding Support

The funding support for Diplomas has been confirmed, giving centres an average additional £1000 for a Diploma student. Consortia are asked to confirm final student numbers by the end of February 2008. The DCSF have also announced extra funding for Consortia. Please visit the DCSF website for more information.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?sid=40&pid=328&ctype=TEXT&ptype=Single>

Diploma Advisors

We have some full time, dedicated, Diploma Advisors to help you get up and running with the Diplomas. If you would like to secure a visit or require any help in preparing for making a Gateway 2 application then please make your request to one of our Diploma Advisors via our website www.diplomainfo.org.uk in the about Diplomas section.

Diploma Update Edition 8

Second Phase Development

Work on the 2nd five lines of learning has begun and AQA-City & Guilds will be looking to offer all of the following lines:

- Business, Administration and Finance
- Hair and Beauty Studies
- Hospitality
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Manufacturing and Product Design

Level 1 and Level 2 Project

QCA has asked AQA to pilot the Level 1 and Level 2 Project in 2 cohorts commencing in September 2007 and 2008.

Additional / Specialist Learning catalogue

Each catalogue includes the available principal learning and project qualifications, as well as a full listing of the functional skills and additional and specialist learning options relevant to the specific Diploma. To find out what a learner must achieve to constitute a Diploma qualification visit the QCA website on <http://www.ndaq.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx>

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Specifications

All draft units are now available on the Diplomas website <http://www.diplomainfo.org/> full AQA-City & Guilds specifications will be available soon.

Category 3 Consortia

The DCSF have announced the process and timetable for assessing those consortia who obtained a Category 3 in Gateway 1. Results for Gateway 1, Category 3 consortia will be released at the same time as Gateway 2 results in April 2008.

Teaching students about the work environment

Help enabling students to understand more about different working environments is key to helping them choose a career. A new organisation called Growing Ambitions is here to help. It's a nationwide matchmaking service linking enthusiastic individuals from the workplace and careers, education teachers in secondary schools, and careers advisers in FE colleges and universities throughout the UK. As lead education sponsors, we are working closely with Growing Ambitions. Our customers will be able to use the website to book industry speakers in their local areas to come and talk about:

- the industry they work in
- their typical day
- how they found the job
- what the career opportunities are
- what training they went through
- salary levels available

Visit www.growingambitions.org.uk to find out more.

For more information on AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas visit our website www.diplomainfo.org.uk or contact us at queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

Diploma Update Edition 7

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Diploma Update Edition 5 August 2007

Accreditation News

AQA-City & Guilds are delighted to announce they are launching the new Diplomas. We have been formally accredited by QCA to offer the following Principal Learning for first teaching in September 2008:

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Engineering
- Information Technology

We are confident in the quality of our first diploma lines of learning, and most appreciative of the challenge, support and guidance offered by colleagues in the DDPs, in education and in employment.

The Project

AQA-City & Guilds have also been accredited with the following project qualifications:

- Level 1 Project
- Level 2 Project
- Level 3 Extended Project

Society, Health and Development

As we continue with the development of the SHD Principal Learning and the next five lines of learning we are looking forward to using the experience from delivery of the first wave and in particular the real-life front-line feedback from the teaching staff and consortia members in our developments. We want to ensure that our SHD Principal Learning has all the components for success in attracting young people into these vital areas of vocational learning and potential employment. We would be delighted to work with colleagues from education and employers who would like to offer SHD as soon as it can be made available to them – 2009 at the latest – so that we can be sure that we have an option for young people of which we can all feel proud.

Teacher Support and Curriculum Manager Launch Events

We are running a number of regional events during September and October this year. AQA-City & Guilds will be offering a free of charge programme of events to introduce and update you on each of the specific lines of learning and to provide information for Curriculum Managers. For the Meeting timetable visit the [Events](#) page of our website, or to apply to attend these events, go to <http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/>.

Diploma Advisors

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Gateway 2

The Department for children, schools and families have published outline guidance on their website <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/>. Formal guidance and application form will be available in September 2007, applications submission on 3rd December 2007, and assessment will take place Jan-Feb 2008. If you are making a Gateway 2 application we can provide help via our [Diploma Advisors](#).

City & Guilds' Functional Skills

City & Guilds are piloting Functional Skills qualifications at level 1 and 2 in English, Mathematics and ICT from this September. Assessment materials will be available for use in January 2008. However, in the interim we will make sample materials available by October 2007. Assessment at Entry Level 1 & 2 will be piloted from September 2008.

Functional English assessment will be a themed task incorporating all skill areas of Reading, Writing, and Speaking & Listening. There will be flexibility however for centres to use their own contexts, especially for Speaking & Listening. The assessment will cover all skill areas outlined in the FS standards.

We will inform you in the best possible time of all support materials and training events that are being organised by QCA. For more information about Functional Skills from QCA website please go to the following link: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_6062.aspx

For dedicated queries regarding the Functional Skills pilot with City & Guilds you can email FunctionalSkills@cityandguilds.com.

AQA's Functional Skills

From September 2007 AQA will be piloting functional skills qualifications at levels 1 and 2 in English, Maths and ICT. We intend to continue trialling and developing functional skills at Entry levels during the pilot. The assessment models AQA has developed for piloting functional skills are:

English – multiple choice responses to a range of non-literary and media texts, two questions testing writing to inform/persuade and Speaking and Listening (internal assessment);

Mathematics – two written papers, one non-calculator and the other with pre release material allowing the use of a calculator. The piloting of functional Mathematics is being taken forward within the AQA 14 – 19 Curriculum Pathways Project. More information is available at http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/maths_cp_project.php

ICT – a test which will comprise several question types including multiple choice, sentence completion, matching pairs, ordering and searching and a task modelled along the lines of the Key Skills Level 3 external assessment.

AQA intends to offer on screen assessments during the pilot.

You can read/download the summer edition of AQA Functional News at http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/functional_skills.php. If you like to work with AQA in these pilots please e-mail your centre and consortia details to functionalskills@aqa.org.uk.

Second Phase Development Begins

QCA have released the first draft criteria for the second wave, which covers the following lines of learning:

- Business, Administration and Finance
- Hair and Beauty
- Hospitality and Catering
- Land-based and Environmental
- Manufacturing.

These criteria will be finalised in July-August. AQA-City & Guilds are planning for the development of this second wave of qualifications and will submit them to QCA for accreditation in March 2008.

Sorting work placements

Finding the right placement for the right student can take time and a lot of patience! A new organisation called Growing Ambitions is here to help. It's a nationwide matchmaking service linking enthusiastic individuals from the workplace and careers education teachers in secondary schools, and careers advisers in FE colleges and universities throughout the UK. As lead education sponsors, we are working closely with Growing Ambitions, and our customers will be able to use the website to book industry speakers in their local areas to come and talk about:

- the industry they work in
- their typical day
- how they found the job
- what the career opportunities are
- what training they went through
- salary levels available

Visit www.growingambitions.org.uk to find out more.

Diploma Update

Edition 4

July 2007



Accreditation News

AQA-City & Guilds, as with other awarding bodies, are still actively pursuing full accreditation of the first five lines of learning for the Diploma. Final accreditation decisions for the Diplomas to be piloted from September 2008 will be published by QCA on 31 July.

Teacher Support Launch Events

We are running a number of regional events during September and October this year. AQA-City & Guilds will be offering a free of charge programme of events to introduce and update you on each of the specific lines of learning and to provide information for Curriculum Managers. To apply to attend these events, go to <http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/>.

Diploma Advisors

We now have some full time, dedicated, Diploma Advisors to help you get up and running with the Diplomas. If you would like to secure an early visit from one of our Advisors then please request a visit via queries@diplomainfo.org.uk or go to our website

Additionally, if you require any help in preparing for and making a Gateway 2 application our Regional Advisor team has experience in this area. Again, please make a request via queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

City & Guilds' Functional Skills

City & Guilds are piloting Functional Skills qualifications at level 1 and 2 in English, Mathematics and ICT from this September. Assessment materials will be available for use in January 2008. However, in the interim we will make sample materials available by October 2007. Assessment at Entry Level 1 & 2 will be piloted from September 2008.

Functional English assessment will be a themed task incorporating all skill areas of Reading, Writing, and Speaking & Listening. There will be flexibility however for centres to use their own contexts, especially for Speaking & Listening. The assessment will cover all skill areas outlined in the FS standards.

We will inform you in the best possible time of all support materials and training events that are being organised by QCA. For more information about Functional Skills from QCA website please go to the following link: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_6062.aspx

For dedicated queries regarding the Functional Skills pilot with City & Guilds you can email FunctionalSkills@cityandguilds.com.

AQA's Functional Skills

From September 2007 AQA will be piloting functional skills qualifications at levels 1 and 2 in English, Maths and ICT. In addition AQA will be piloting functional skills incorporated into revised GCSEs in English, Mathematics and ICT. We intend to continue trialling and developing functional skills at Entry levels during the pilot. The assessment models AQA has developed for piloting functional skills are:

English – multiple choice responses to a range of non-literary and media texts, two questions testing writing to inform/persuade and Speaking and Listening (internal assessment);

Mathematics – two written papers, one non-calculator and the other with pre release material allowing the use of a calculator. The piloting of functional Mathematics is being taken forward within the AQA 14 – 19 Curriculum Pathways Project. More information is available at http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/maths_cp_project.php

ICT – a test which will comprise several question types including multiple choice, sentence completion, matching pairs, ordering and searching and a task modelled along the lines of the Key Skills Level 3 external assessment.

AQA intends to offer on screen assessments during the pilot.

A series of oversubscribed AQA briefing meetings for pilot centres were held in June. If you are a Diploma gateway centre who intends to sign up for the pilot with AQA there will be additional training offered in the autumn term. AQA's briefings and training events are complimented by the national training programme to support pilot centres currently being delivered by QIA/SNS or LSN.

AQA is developing materials and resources to support our functional skills qualifications. This includes:

- Example assessment materials (available to pilot centres now)

- Specifications (available to pilot centres now)

- Briefing and training sessions

- Electronic and textbook resources for teaching and learning through our partner Nelson Thornes

You can read/download the summer edition of AQA Functional News at http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/functional_skills.php. If you like to work with AQA in these pilots please e-mail your centre and consortia details to functionalskills@aqa.org.uk.

Second Phase Development Begins

QCA have released the first draft criteria for the second wave, which covers the following lines of learning:

- Business, Administration and Finance
- Hair and Beauty
- Hospitality and Catering
- Land-based and Environmental
- Manufacturing.

These criteria will be finalised in July-August. AQA-City & Guilds are planning for the development of this second wave of qualifications and will submit them to QCA for accreditation in March 2008.

Sorting work placements

Finding the right placement for the right student can take time and a lot of patience! A new organisation called **Growing Ambitions** is here to help. It's a nationwide matchmaking service linking enthusiastic individuals from the workplace and careers education teachers in secondary schools, and careers advisers in FE colleges and universities throughout the UK. As lead education sponsors, we are working closely with Growing Ambitions, and our customers will be able to use the website to book industry speakers in their local areas to come and talk about:

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- what the career opportunities are
- what training they went through
- salary levels available

Visit www.growingambitions.org.uk to find out more.



Diploma Update Edition 3 June 2007

We have now launched the new AQA-City & Guilds website!

We have launched our new website www.diplomainfo.org.uk. You will find the latest information on our Diplomas, what we are doing and what events we are going to be attending. You can also sign-up to receive our updates and to register your interest in specific lines of learning. We also have a new email address for any questions you may have – queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

Curriculum Managers' Update Events

We shall be running a number of regional events during the Autumn term. AQA-City & Guilds will be offering a free of charge programme of 2 hour briefings to update consortia on the development of the new Diploma and to provide a further brief on the content and delivery issues surrounding this new qualification. More information on these events and how to apply will be available shortly on our website.

Teacher Support Launch Events

We shall be running a number of regional events during the Autumn term. AQA-City & Guilds will be offering a free of charge programme of events to introduce and update teachers on each of the specific lines of learning. More information on these events and how to apply will be available shortly on the website.

Regional Advisors

We now have some full time, dedicated, Regional Advisors to help you get up and running with the Diplomas. Their contact details will soon be made available but if you would like to assure an early visit then just email us and let us know you would be interested at queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

Second Phase Development Begins

QCA have released the first draft criteria for the second wave, which covers the following lines of learning:

- Business Administration and Finance
- Hair and Beauty



- Hospitality and Catering
- Land-based and Environmental
- Manufacturing.

These criteria will be finalised in June-July. AQA-City & Guilds have begun development of this second wave of qualifications and will submit them to QCA for accreditation in March 2008.

Gateway 2

The DfES has announced a tentative timetable for the second round of the Gateway process for those who didn't quite make it the first time round. The timetable is likely to be:

- July 2007 – Guidance issued
- Early November 2007 – Self Assessments submitted to DfES
- Jan-Feb 2008 – Regional Panels and National Moderation
- March 2008 – Announcement

If you require any help in preparing for and making a Gateway application our Regional Advisor team has experience in this area. Please contact us at queries@diplomainfo.org.uk.

Sorting work placements

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Diploma Update

Edition 2 - May 2007

Congratulations!

The first consortia approved to offer the Diplomas were announced on **28 March 2007**. More than 145 of the 361 applicants were successful, and we would like to offer them all well deserved congratulations.

Support packs for approved consortia can be found at www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19 and that's also the place to download a Conditional Approval Support Pack if you are considering offering Diplomas from **September 2009**.

Any consortia looking for approval to offer the Diplomas should talk to the appropriate contacts in their local authority, once again the DFES site can provide further guidance.

Qualifications update

The AQA and City & Guilds product team have put their finishing touches to our submission to QCA. Our first wave of qualifications have been submitted for accreditation on 30 April 2007 and these were

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Society, Health and Development

Consortia will be able to register their interest in offering AQA-City & Guilds Diplomas now. Diploma specifications will be available on the website before the end of the Summer term 2007, ready for first teaching in September 2008. Watch this space for further info.

Testing, testing, testing!

Functional Skills

We all know that practice makes perfect, so to make sure that implementing the new Diplomas is as pain free and successful as possible for our consortia and their learners, we are currently running two Functional Skills pilot schemes. We are looking for some willing volunteers to help us develop schemes that meet your needs and help you reach your objectives. Taking part in these pilots will allow consortia to play a significant part in shaping provision, as well as enabling them to familiarise themselves with these new qualifications and hit the ground running in September 2008.



Level 3 Extended Project Qualification learner pilot scheme

The Extended Project offers students the opportunity to produce an extended piece of work either in an area that they are studying or in which they have a particular interest.

AQA-City & Guilds are piloting this project and feedback from centres has been extremely encouraging. Students involved in the trial in Farnborough enjoyed discovering more about subjects of interest to them and found that this boosted their confidence. They also felt that working on a more involved piece of work helped them to develop the planning, analytical and research skills which would prepare them for the demands of essay and dissertation writing required in higher education.

If you would like to take part in either of these pilots, please contact us at queries@diplomainfo.org.uk for more information.

What's the word?

During February and March, the City & Guilds and AQA Diploma team attended a number of events across the UK. These provided a great opportunity to get views and concerns on the new Diplomas – straight from the horse's mouth!

Administration overload?

Any new initiative brings with it new paperwork, new forms and a new way of working and when there are a number of providers offering parts of the award, this can become an admin nightmare! That's why we have put together a dedicated diploma team with experts from AQA and City & Guilds providing a one-stop shop to provide expert advice and guidance and streamline your administration.

Information on units

We have worked closely with Diploma Development Partnerships (DDPs) on the content of the diplomas and we are pleased to have their continued support for our qualifications.

Make us your favourite!

We're currently working on a dedicated site for all our customers to use and will let you know as soon it is launched.

In the meantime you can have direct access to all the latest information on AQA and City & Guilds Diplomas at www.diplomainfo.org.uk

Our web pages are regularly updated, so why not pay us a visit? And don't forget to add us to your Internet Explorer *Favourites*.