

# QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

 gateway  
qualifications



## Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3 - Level 1)

Access to HE

Apprenticeships

Digital

Employability &  
Enterprise

English & Maths

ESOL

Personal & Social  
Development

Professional  
Development

Vocational



This qualification specification covers the following qualifications:

Qualification Number	Qualification Title
600/9217/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)
600/8845/X	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)
600/9218/X	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award In Skills for Performing Arts
600/8847/3	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts
600/8849/7	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma In Skills for Performing Arts

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1.1 (June 2020)	Front, back covers and RPL statement updated.	n/a
1.2 (April 2021)	Qualification approval from Qualifications Wales removed.	Pg7 and 8

## About this qualification specification

This qualification specification is intended for tutors, internal quality assurers, centre quality managers and other staff within Gateway Qualifications recognised centres and/or prospective centres.

It sets out what is required of the learner in order to achieve the qualifications. It also contains information specific to managing and delivering the qualifications including specific quality assurance requirements.

The guide should be read in conjunction with the Gateway Qualifications Centre Handbook and other publications available on the website which contain more detailed guidance on assessment and quality assurance practice.

In order to offer these qualifications you must be a Gateway Qualifications recognised centre and be approved to offer the qualifications.

If your centre is not yet recognised, please contact our Development Team to discuss becoming a Gateway Qualifications Recognised Centre:

Telephone: 01206 911211

Email: [enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk)

Website: [www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/recognition](http://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/recognition)

## Contents

<b>1. Qualification Information</b> .....	<b>7</b>
1.1 About the qualifications .....	7
1.2 Purpose.....	7
1.3 Funding.....	7
1.4 Geographical coverage .....	8
1.5 Progression opportunities.....	8
1.6 Equality, diversity and inclusion.....	8
<b>2. Learner Entry Requirements</b> .....	<b>9</b>
2.1 Key information .....	9
2.2 Access to qualifications for learners with disabilities or specific needs .....	9
2.3 Recruiting learners with integrity .....	10
<b>3. Qualification Details</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.1 Achievement methodology .....	11
3.2 Qualification size .....	11
3.3 Qualification structure.....	12
Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3) .....	12
Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3) ...	13
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award in Skills for Performing Arts .....	17
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Performing Arts .....	18
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma in Skills for Performing Arts .....	18
3.4 Recognition of prior learning.....	22
3.5 Links to other qualifications .....	22
<b>4. Assessment</b> .....	<b>23</b>
4.1 Assessment overview.....	23
4.2 Assessment format .....	23
4.3 Assessment language .....	23
4.4 Support materials and resources.....	23
4.5 Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations .....	23
<b>5. Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval</b> .....	<b>26</b>
5.1 Centre Recognition .....	26
5.2 Centre requirements.....	26
5.3 Qualification-specific tutor/assessor requirements.....	26
<b>6. Quality Assurance</b> .....	<b>27</b>
6.1 Internal Quality Assurance .....	28
6.2 Quality assuring centre marking .....	28

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6.3	Malpractice.....	29
6.4	Additional quality assurance requirements .....	29
<b>7</b>	<b>Learner Registration and Results .....</b>	<b>30</b>
7.1	Registration.....	30
7.2	Awarding.....	30
7.3	Issuing results .....	30
7.4	Appeals.....	30
7.5	Enquiries.....	30
<b>8</b>	<b>What to do next .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Gateway Qualifications .....</b>	<b>31</b>

## 1. Qualification Information

### 1.1 About the qualifications

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The qualifications have been approved by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.

These qualifications are intended to provide learners with a broad introduction to the performing arts sector, equipping learners with underpinning knowledge and skills specific to the sector alongside a range of transferable employability skills. They are designed to support progression to further learning and ultimately to work in performing arts or other related sectors.

The Skills for Performing Arts qualifications form part of a suite of 'Skills for...' qualifications that cover a number of sectors and are available at Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2. The employability skills units are common across the suite, enabling easy transfer of credits between qualifications and supporting opportunities for cross-faculty working.

The qualifications have been developed with the support of a number of further education colleges, training providers and adult and community learning providers. They have been designed to be consistent with the principles for study programmes for 16-19 year olds but are also relevant, particularly in the case of the smaller qualifications, for adults including the unemployed. These qualifications are also suitable for pre-16 learners.

The Qualifications in Skills for Performing Arts link to the National Occupational Standards for Performing Arts. They provide some of the underpinning knowledge and practical skills that will support progression to a relevant competency-based qualification.

### 1.2 Purpose

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The qualification purpose is to:

- prepare learners to progress to a qualification in the same sector or a related area at a higher level or requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding
- prepare learners for employment in the sector or a related sector.

### 1.3 Funding

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For information regarding potential sources of funding please visit the following the Education and Skills Funding Agency:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/education-and-skills-funding-agency>.

## 1.4 Geographical coverage

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These qualifications are approved by Ofqual to be offered in England.

If a centre based outside England would like to offer these qualifications, they should make an enquiry to Gateway Qualifications. The qualifications are not available for delivery in Northern Ireland.

## 1.5 Progression opportunities

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These qualifications are designed to enable progression into further learning at the same level (e.g. from an award to a certificate) or to further learning at a higher level (e.g. from Entry 3 to Level 1). The strong focus on transferable employability skills means that learners could move within or between sectors as they progress. Some learners may be able to progress directly into employment, particularly where work-based training will be offered, but it is expected that most learners will build on the skills and knowledge gained from these qualifications through further learning before entering employment.

## 1.6 Equality, diversity and inclusion

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It is Gateway Qualifications' aim that there shall be equal opportunities within this organisation and in all the services it provides and within its recognised centres and via the services they provide and so meet the organisation's legal responsibilities to prevent discrimination.

In particular it is the organisation's intention that there should be no discrimination on the grounds of a protected characteristic including age, disability, gender assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation. It is acknowledged that this is not an exhaustive list.



## 2. Learner Entry Requirements

### 2.1 Key information

<b>Qualification Titles</b>	<p>Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)</p> <p>Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)</p> <p>Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award In Skills for Performing Arts</p> <p>Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts</p> <p>Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma In Skills for Performing Arts</p>
<b>Age</b>	Pre-16, 16-18, 19+
<b>Prior qualifications or units</b>	There are no prior qualification requirements for these qualifications.
<b>Prior skills/knowledge/understanding</b>	There are no prior skills, knowledge or understanding requirements for these qualifications. However, learners will benefit from having functional skills or equivalent, at least at one level below that of the qualification (e.g. at least Entry 3 for the Level 1 qualifications).
<b>Restrictions</b>	There are no restrictions to entry for these qualifications.
<b>Additional requirements/guidance</b>	There are no additional rules or guidance regarding learner entry requirements.

### 2.2 Access to qualifications for learners with disabilities or specific needs

1. Gateway Qualifications and recognised centres have a responsibility to ensure that the process of assessment is robust and fair and allows the learner to show what they know and can do without compromising the assessment criteria.
2. Gateway Qualification has a duty to permit a reasonable adjustment where an assessment arrangement would put a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled. Please refer to [Section 4.5 Access Arrangement, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations](#) for further details.

## 2.3 Recruiting learners with integrity

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Centres must recruit learners with integrity. They must ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification and that the qualification will meet their needs.

Centres must assess each potential learner and make justifiable and professional judgements about their potential to successfully complete the assessment and achieve the qualification. Such an assessment must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to the qualification.

## 3. Qualification Details

### 3.1 Achievement methodology

The qualification will be awarded to learners who successfully achieve an approved combination of units through a Portfolio of Evidence that has been successfully verified and monitored through Gateway Qualifications' Quality Assurance process. Achievement is therefore determined by successful completion of unit assessment with no further requirement for additional/summative assessment.

### 3.2 Qualification size

Qualification Title	Total Qualification Time	Guided Learning	Credit Value
Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)	70	70	7
Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)	180	152	18
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award In Skills for Performing Arts	80	60	8
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts	250	182	25
Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma In Skills for Performing Arts	370	272	37

**Total Qualification Time** is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could be reasonably expected to be required for a Learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of the qualification.

Total Qualification Time is comprised of the following two elements:

- the number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
- an estimate of the number of hours a Learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place by – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the Immediate Guidance or Supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

### 3.3 Qualification structure

The qualification requirements are provided below.

The knowledge, skills and understanding that will be assessed as part of the qualification are set out within unit specifications. Unit contents, including the learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria, are published on the Gateway Qualifications website and are also available to download from the qualification library in the online system Prism.

For information on Recognition of Prior Learning/Exempt and Equivalent units please see section **3.4 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

### Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)

Learners must complete one unit from the Mandatory Group (M) worth a minimum of 3 credits and 4 credits from group O1 (Optional Units).

#### Mandatory (M)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
H/504/7816	Basic Performing Arts Skills	Entry 3	3	30
D/502/3823	Introduction to the Performing Arts	Entry 3	3	30
L/504/8071	Taking Part in a Performance	Entry 3	3	30

#### Optional (O1)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
Y/504/7814	Acting Skills for Solo and Duologue	Entry 3	4	35
M/504/7818	Creating Dance	Entry 3	4	35
T/504/7819	Creating Drama	Entry 3	4	35
T/504/7822	Creating Music and Lyrics	Entry 3	4	35
F/504/7838	Creating Sets and Stages	Entry 3	4	35
F/504/7841	Design Skills for Performance	Entry 3	4	36
Y/504/7845	Ensemble Music Performance	Entry 3	4	35
H/504/7850	Exploring Dance	Entry 3	4	35
F/504/8066	Preparing for a Performance	Entry 3	2	18
K/503/4002	Solo Music Performance	Entry 2	4	40

## Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)

Learners must complete the three mandatory units from the Mandatory Group (M), totalling 9 credits. In addition, they must complete a minimum of 3 credits from Group O1 (Optional units - Performing Arts) and 6 further credits from either Group O1 or Group O2 (Optional units - Employability Skills, English and Maths). Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

### Mandatory (M)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
H/504/7816	Basic Performing Arts Skills	Entry 3	3	30
D/502/3823	Introduction to the Performing Arts	Entry 3	3	30
L/504/8071	Taking Part in a Performance	Entry 3	3	30

### Optional Units - Performing Arts (O1)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
Y/504/7814	Acting Skills for Solo and Duologue	Entry 3	4	35
*Y/504/7974	Backstage Theatre Skills	1	3	27
*M/504/7818	Creating Dance	Entry 3	4	35
T/504/7819	Creating Drama	Entry 3	4	35
*T/504/7822	Creating Music and Lyrics	Entry 3	4	35
*F/504/7838	Creating Sets and Stages	Entry 3	4	35
F/504/7841	Design Skills for Performance	Entry 3	4	36
*L/504/8037	Drama and Theatre Workshop	1	4	35
L/504/8040	MIDI and Audio Techniques	1	5	40
R/504/8041	MIDI Sequencing and Software	1	4	40
*L/504/8118	Music Skills for Solo Performance	1	5	40
T/504/8047	Musical Theatre Skills	1	4	30
H/505/0909	Performance Improvisation Techniques	1	3	27
*J/504/8120	Performance Workshop	Entry 3	3	30
D/502/3840	Performing Arts Individual Repertoire and Showcase	1	4	30
A/504/8048	Performing Physical Theatre	1	3	27
*F/504/8066	Preparing for a Performance	Entry 3	2	18
*H/502/3838	Preparing Performing Arts Work	1	4	30
J/504/8067	Promoting a Performing Arts Event	Entry 3	3	30
*K/503/4002	Solo Music Performance	Entry 2	4	40
*J/504/8053	Song Writing Skills in Popular Music	1	4	35
L/504/8054	Sound and Audio Production Skills	1	4	35

\* F/504/8066 (Preparing for a Performance) is barred against H/502/3838 (Preparing Performing Arts Work)

\*K/503/4002 (Solo Music Performance) is barred against L/504/8118 (Music Skills for Solo Performance)

\*T/504/7822 (Creating Music and Lyrics) is barred against J/504/8053 (Song Writing Skills in Popular Music)

\*J/504/8120 (Performance Workshop) is barred against L/504/8037 (Drama and Theatre Workshop)

\*F/504/7838 (Creating Sets and Stages) is barred against Y/504/7974 (Backstage Theatre Skills)

### Optional – Employability Skills (O2a)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
A/617/4047	Applying for a job	Entry 3	2	20
K/617/4061	Career planning	Entry 3	2	20
T/617/4080	Communication skills for work	Entry 3	3	30
L/617/4070	Conduct at work	Entry 3	2	20
D/617/4073	Customer service skills	Entry 3	2	20
T/617/4158	Digital skills for work	Entry 3	3	30
D/617/4087	Exploring and presenting enterprise ideas	Entry 3	3	30
D/617/4090	Exploring entrepreneurship	Entry 3	2	20
T/617/4094	Health and safety in the workplace	Entry 3	2	20
R/617/4099	Interview skills	Entry 3	3	30
J/617/4102	Introduction to self-employment	Entry 3	3	30
L/617/4103	Making the most of work placement	Entry 3	3	30
K/617/4108	Negotiation skills	Entry 3	3	30
R/617/4149	Numeracy skills for work	Entry 3	3	30
A/617/4131	Searching for a job	Entry 3	2	20
L/617/4134	Self-management skills for work	Entry 3	2	20
H/617/4138	Setting and Meeting Work-Related Targets	Entry 3	2	20
J/504/6299	Skills for Creative Thinkers	Entry 3	2	15
A/504/6249	Skills for Effective Participants	Entry 3	2	15
T/504/6248	Skills for Independent Enquirers	Entry 3	2	15
F/504/6902	Skills for Reflective Learners	Entry 3	2	15
M/617/4143	Solving work-related problems	Entry 3	2	20
F/617/4146	Time management	Entry 3	2	20
R/617/4152	Working in a team	Entry 3	3	30

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
T/617/4127	Working safely	Entry 3	1	10
H/617/4155	Working with colleagues	Entry 3	2	20

### Optional - English (O2b)

Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/505/6129	Engage in Discussion	Entry 3	2	20
Y/505/6321	Engage in Discussion	1	2	20
H/505/4135	Listen and Respond	Entry 3	2	20
D/505/6319	Listen and Respond	1	2	20
H/505/6127	Read for Information	Entry 3	3	30
L/505/4131	Read for Information	1	3	30
D/505/6126	Read for Purpose and Meaning	Entry 3	3	30
Y/505/6318	Read for Purpose and Meaning	1	3	30
K/505/6128	Speak to Communicate	Entry 3	2	20
R/505/6320	Speak to Communicate	1	2	20
L/505/4159	Write Accurately	Entry 3	3	30
F/505/4160	Write with Accuracy	1	3	30
H/505/6130	Write to Communicate	Entry 3	3	30
D/505/6322	Write to Communicate	1	3	30

### Optional - Maths (O2c)

Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
K/505/4864	Making Calculations	Entry 3	3	30
F/505/4868	Making Calculations	1	3	30
D/505/4862	Money, Time and Temperature	Entry 3	3	30
M/505/4882	Money, Time and Temperature	1	3	30
H/505/4863	Using and Communicating Data	Entry 3	3	30
J/505/4872	Using and Communicating Data	1	3	30
M/505/4865	Using Size, Shape and Measures	Entry 3	3	30
L/505/4890	Using Size, Shape and Space	1	3	30
T/505/4866	Using Whole Numbers, Decimals, Fractions and Percentages	Entry 3	2	20

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
A/505/4867	Numbers, Decimals, Fractions and Percentages	1	3	30
J/505/4869	Numerical Relationships, Algebra and Ratios	1	2	20
A/505/4870	Using Probability	1	2	20



## Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award in Skills for Performing Arts

Learners must complete at least one unit from the Mandatory Group (M) worth a minimum of 4 credits and at least 4 further credits from Group M or O1 (Optional Units).

### Mandatory (M)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
R/504/8119	Performance Skills	1	4	30
T/502/3830	Working in the Performing Arts	1	4	30

### Optional Units (O1)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/504/7852	Acting Skills	1	4	30
Y/504/7974	Backstage Theatre Skills	1	3	27
H/504/7976	Dance Skills	1	4	30
T/504/7979	Design Skills for Performance	1	4	30
R/504/8024	Devising and Directing Dance	1	4	35
M/504/8029	Directing and Devising Drama	1	4	35
L/504/8118	Music Skills for Solo Performance	1	5	40
J/504/8117	Musical Ensemble Skills	1	5	40
H/502/3838	Preparing Performing Arts Work	1	4	30
J/504/8053	Song Writing Skills in Popular Music	1	4	35

## Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Performing Arts

Learners must complete the two units from the Mandatory Group (M), totalling 8 credits. In addition, they must complete a minimum of 8 credits from Group O1 (Optional units - Performing Arts) and 9 further credits from either Group O1 or Group O2 (Optional units - Employability Skills, English and Maths). At least 7 credits from Groups O1 and O2 combined must be at level 1 or above, with at least 2 credits at level 1 or above coming from Group O1. Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

## Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma in Skills for Performing Arts

Learners must complete the two units from the Mandatory Group (M), totalling 8 credits. In addition, they must complete a minimum of 16 credits from Group O1 (Optional units - Performing Arts) and 13 further credits from either Group O1 or Group O2 (Optional units - Employability Skills, English and Maths). At least 14 credits from Groups O1 and O2 combined must be at Level 1 or above, with at least 6 credits at Level 1 or above coming from Group O1. Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

### Mandatory (M)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
R/504/8119	Performance Skills	1	4	30
T/502/3830	Working in the Performing Arts	1	4	30

### Optional – Performing Arts (O1)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/504/7852	Acting Skills	1	4	30
*Y/504/7974	Backstage Theatre Skills	1	3	27
*M/504/7818	Creating Dance	Entry 3	4	35
T/504/7819	Creating Drama	Entry 3	4	35
*T/504/7822	Creating Music and Lyrics	Entry 3	4	35
*F/504/7838	Creating Sets and Stages	Entry 3	4	35
D/504/7975	Dance and Movement Workshop	1	4	35
*H/504/7976	Dance Skills	1	4	30
T/504/7979	Design Skills for Performance	1	4	30
*R/504/8024	Devising and Directing Dance	1	4	35
M/504/8029	Directing and Devising Drama	1	4	35
M/504/8032	DJing Skills	1	3	27
*L/504/8037	Drama and Theatre Workshop	1	4	35

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
*H/504/7850	Exploring Dance	Entry 3	4	35
L/504/8040	MIDI and Audio Techniques	1	5	40
R/504/8041	MIDI Sequencing and Software	1	4	40
*L/504/8118	Music Skills for Solo Performance	1	5	40
J/504/8117	Musical Ensemble Skills	1	5	40
K/504/8045	Musical Theatre	1	3	27
T/504/8047	Musical Theatre Skills	1	4	30
*J/504/8120	Performance Workshop	Entry 3	3	30
D/502/3840	Performing Arts Individual Repertoire and Showcase	1	4	30
A/504/8048	Performing Physical Theatre	1	3	27
*F/504/8066	Preparing for a Performance	Entry 3	2	18
*H/502/3838	Preparing Performing Arts Work	1	4	30
A/504/8051	Promoting a Performing Arts Event	1	3	30
*F/504/8052	Rehearsing for a Production	1	3	27
*K/503/4002	Solo Music Performance	Entry 2	4	40
*J/504/8053	Song Writing Skills in Popular Music	1	4	35
L/504/8054	Sound and Audio Production Skills	1	4	35

\*F/504/8066 (Preparing for a Performance) is barred against H/502/3838 (Preparing Performing Arts Work) and F/504/8052 (Rehearsing for a Production)

\*K/503/4002 (Solo Music Performance) is barred against L/504/8118 (Music Skills for Solo Performance)

\*T/504/7822 (Creating Music and Lyrics) is barred against J/504/8053 (Song Writing Skills in Popular Music)

\*J/504/8120 (Performance Workshop) is barred against L/504/8037 (Drama and Theatre Workshop)

\*H/504/7850 (Exploring Dance) is barred against H/504/7976 (Dance Skills)

\*M/504/7818 (Creating Dance) is barred against R/504/8024 (Devising and Directing Dance)

\*F/504/7838 (Creating Sets and Stages) is barred against Y/504/7974 (Backstage Theatre Skills)

### Optional - Employability Skills (O2a)

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/617/4059	Applying for a job	1	2	20
A/617/4064	Career planning	1	3	30
A/617/4081	Communication skills for work	1	3	30
R/617/4071	Conduct at work	1	2	20
H/617/4074	Customer service skills	1	2	16
M/617/4157	Digital skills for work	1	3	30
H/617/4088	Exploring and presenting enterprise ideas	1	3	30
H/617/4091	Exploring entrepreneurship	1	2	20
A/617/4095	Health and safety in the workplace	1	2	20
L/617/4098	Interview skills	1	3	30
F/617/4101	Introduction to self-employment	1	3	30
R/617/4104	Making the most of work placement	1	3	30
H/617/4107	Negotiation skills	1	3	30
L/617/4148	Numeracy skills for work	1	3	30
T/617/4130	Searching for a job	1	2	20
J/617/4133	Self-management skills for work	1	2	20
D/617/4137	Setting and Meeting Work-Related Targets	1	2	20
H/504/6262	Skills for Creative Thinkers	1	2	15
Y/504/6260	Skills for Effective Participants	1	2	15
D/504/6258	Skills for Independent Enquirers	1	2	15
A/504/6915	Skills for Reflective Learners	1	2	15
K/617/4142	Solving work-related problems	1	2	20
A/617/4145	Time management	1	2	20
L/617/4151	Working in a team	1	3	30
H/617/4124	Working safely	1	1	10
D/617/4154	Working with colleagues	1	2	20

### Optional - English (O2b)

Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
M/505/6129	Engage in Discussion	Entry 3	2	20
Y/505/6321	Engage in Discussion	1	2	20
H/505/4135	Listen and Respond	Entry 3	2	20
D/505/6319	Listen and Respond	1	2	20
H/505/6127	Read for Information	Entry 3	3	30

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
L/505/4131	Read for Information	1	3	30
D/505/6126	Read for Purpose and Meaning	Entry 3	3	30
Y/505/6318	Read for Purpose and Meaning	1	3	30
K/505/6128	Speak to Communicate	Entry 3	2	20
R/505/6320	Speak to Communicate	1	2	20
L/505/4159	Write Accurately	Entry 3	3	30
F/505/4160	Write with Accuracy	1	3	30
H/505/6130	Write to Communicate	Entry 3	3	30
D/505/6322	Write to Communicate	1	3	30

### Optional - Maths (O2c)

Learners cannot include more than one unit with the same or similar title.

Unit Number	Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
K/505/4864	Making Calculations	Entry 3	3	30
F/505/4868	Making Calculations	1	3	30
D/505/4862	Money, Time and Temperature	Entry 3	3	30
M/505/4882	Money, Time and Temperature	1	3	30
H/505/4863	Using and Communicating Data	Entry 3	3	30
J/505/4872	Using and Communicating Data	1	3	30
M/505/4865	Using Size, Shape and Measures	Entry 3	3	30
L/505/4890	Using Size, Shape and Space	1	3	30
T/505/4866	Using Whole Numbers, Decimals, Fractions and Percentages	Entry 3	2	20
A/505/4867	Numbers, Decimals, Fractions and Percentages	1	3	30
J/505/4869	Numerical Relationships, Algebra and Ratios	1	2	20
A/505/4870	Using Probability	1	2	20

### 3.4 Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) provides learners and Centres with an alternative assessment method by which a learner's previous achievements can meet the assessment requirements for a unit/qualification through the knowledge, understanding or skills that they already possess and so, do not need to develop these through a course of learning.

It enables the recognition of achievement from a range of activities using any valid assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given unit or qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable to contribute to a unit, units or a whole qualification according to the RPL criteria for a given qualification.

Qualification Number	Qualification Title	RPL Permitted
600/9217/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)	No
600/8845/X	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts (Entry 3)*	Yes
600/9218/X	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Award In Skills for Performing Arts	No
600/8847/3	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Certificate In Skills for Performing Arts*	Yes
600/8849/7	Gateway Qualifications Level 1 Diploma In Skills for Performing Arts*	Yes

\*The recognition of prior learning is permitted for this qualification and includes the prior attainment of units on a qualification offered by Gateway Qualifications, e.g. where a learner progresses from a smaller qualification to a larger qualification and where the qualifications have shared content such as an Award, Certificate and/or Diploma.

Centres should refer to the Gateway Qualifications' Recognition of Prior Learning policy and follow the process available on the website.

### 3.5 Links to other qualifications

These qualifications form part of a suite 'Skills for...' qualifications in a number of sectors and across Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2. The employability skills units are common across the suite and also appear within Gateway Qualifications provision in Employability Skills. The Entry 3 employability skills units also feature in the Entry 3 Preparation for Employment qualifications.

## 4 Assessment

### 4.1 Assessment overview

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Should a learner not achieve the required standard to pass an assessment, further teaching and learning should take place before attempting the assessment again.

### 4.2 Assessment format

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The method of assessment for the qualifications is through a portfolio of evidence.

### 4.3 Assessment language

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The qualifications are assessed in English only.

### 4.4 Support materials and resources

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In addition to this qualification specification, the following resources are available on the Gateway Qualifications website:

- Centre Handbook

### 4.5 Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

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Gateway Qualifications and recognised centres have a responsibility to ensure that the process of assessment is robust and fair and allows the learner to show what they know and can do without compromising the assessment criteria. Gateway Qualifications understands its requirement as an awarding organisation to make reasonable adjustments where a learner, who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled.

Gateway Qualifications has identified reasonable adjustments permissible as detailed below. A reasonable adjustment is unique to an individual and therefore may not be included in the list of available access arrangements.

Centres do not need to apply to Gateway Qualifications for approval of reasonable adjustments unless adaptation of externally set assessments is required.

Learners can have access to all forms of equipment, software and practical assistance, such as a reader or a scribe that reflect their normal way of working within the centre. However, such adjustments must not affect the reliability or validity of assessment outcomes or give the candidate an assessment advantage over other candidates undertaking the same or similar assessments.

The following adaptations are examples of what may be considered for the purposes of facilitating access, as long as they do not impact on any competence standards being tested:

- adapting assessment materials;
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes;
- adaptation to equipment;
- assessment material in an enlarged format or Braille;
- assessment material on coloured paper or in audio format;
- British Sign Language (BSL);
- changing or adapting the assessment method;
- changing usual assessment arrangements;
- extra time, e.g. assignment extensions;
- language modified assessment material;
- practical assistant;
- prompter;
- providing assistance during assessment;
- reader;
- scribe;
- transcript;
- use of assistive software;
- using assistive technology;
- use of CCTV, coloured overlays, low vision aids;
- use of a different assessment location;
- use of ICT/responses using electronic devices.

It is important to note that not all the adjustments (as above) will be reasonable, permissible or practical in particular situations. The learner may not need, nor be allowed the same adjustment for all assessments.

Learners should be fully involved in any decisions about adjustments/adaptations. This will ensure that individual needs can be met, whilst still bearing in mind the specified assessment criteria for a particular qualification.

All reasonable adjustments made by the centre must be recorded on the Gateway Qualifications' Reasonable Adjustments Form and should be made available to Gateway Qualifications upon request. Guidance on the process for applying for formal adjustments can be found on the Forms and Guidance page of Gateway Qualifications' website.

All adjustments to assessment/s must be authorised by the centre's named Quality Assurance nominee or a member of staff with delegated authority where a centre is permitted to make reasonable adjustments, i.e. for internally marked assessments.

Centres should keep records of adjustments they have permitted and those they have requested from Gateway Qualifications. These records should normally be kept for 3 years following the assessment to which they apply.

It is recommended that centres nominate members of staff to take responsibility for demonstrating the implementation and recording of adjustments to assessments for monitoring by Gateway Qualifications or the regulatory authorities.



### **Special Considerations**

Requests for special consideration should be submitted as soon as possible. Please refer to the [Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration Policy](#).

## 5 Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

### 5.1 Centre Recognition

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Both centre recognition and qualification approval must be gained before centres are permitted to deliver these qualifications.

Guidance on the centre recognition and qualification approval processes is available on the website: <https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/advice-guidance/delivering-our-qualifications/become-recognised-centre/>

### 5.2 Centre requirements

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Centres must ensure that they have the appropriate resources in place when delivering performance units from vocational areas.

In the delivery of qualification and units to pre-16 learners centres are required to exercise due diligence in respect of the following:

- the learner's needs and access to information and advice about the units offered and how the course of learning will meet their needs;
- the learner's present capacity to undertake the tasks set by tutors, and tutors understanding of how particular tasks accord with the assessment criteria for the unit;
- tutors should be fully conversant with the qualification and unit specification/s offered to learners, where clarification is required the centre should consult with the assigned External Quality Assurer for further advice and guidance in the delivery of units and refer to the Centre Handbook and Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration policy and guidance.
- centres will be required to have appropriate and up to date risk assessments and ensure that appropriate support and supervision is provided; appropriate subject specialist knowledge should be consulted where the possibility of harm to learners is identified; this will be monitored through Gateway Qualifications' quality assurance process.
- the centre contact for the unit/qualification being delivered must ensure that all procedures relating to the delivery of the unit/qualification operate effectively in the centre.

### 5.3 Qualification-specific tutor/assessor requirements

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There are no additional internal/external quality assurance requirements for these qualifications.

## 6 Quality Assurance

Centres should refer to the online Centre Handbook for further guidance.

The quality assurance process for these qualifications is through risk-based external quality assurance monitoring through reviews of centres' internal quality assurance systems against key quality standards and sampling of assessment decisions and internal quality assurance activity to ensure that qualification standards are maintained.

Centre monitoring is undertaken by an External Quality Assurer (EQA) allocated to the centre. The EQA plays a critical role in the Gateway Qualifications approach to centre assessment standards scrutiny as they are responsible for:

- carrying out an annual compliance visit
- validating the centre's procedures for delivery of qualifications and assessment
- completing reports for each visit with clear action points where needed
- risk rating centres on the above.

The EQA carries out an initial risk assessment at the centre recognition stage and then annually on an on-going basis using Gateway Qualifications' risk assessment criteria, and gives a high/medium/low risk rating in each of the following categories:

- centre resourcing and arrangements: this includes consideration of centre staffing, induction and training, policies and compliance with our centre agreement
- internal assessment and delivery: including reference to staff knowledge and skills, understanding of requirements, and appropriateness of delivery arrangements; also, delivery of external assessments including invigilation, conduct of assessments and confidentiality (where appropriate)
- internal quality assurance: covering IQA procedures, whether staff are appropriately trained, and standardisation arrangements in place
- learner experience: that embraces appropriateness of initial assessment and learners being on the correct programme, learner induction and course support.

EQAs arrange quality monitoring visits to all recognised centres. These visits:

- monitor the centre's compliance with the centre recognition terms and conditions by reviewing programme documentation and meeting managers and centre staff
- identify any staff development needs
- ensure that all procedures are being complied with, through an audit trail, and make sure that the award of certificates of completion to learners is secure.

EQAs contact the centre in advance of a visit, however Gateway Qualifications reserves the right to undertake unannounced visits including during assessment times.

EQAs will request information from the centre in advance of a planned visit to help inform the evidence to be reviewed during the visit. Centres are obliged to comply with any requests for access to premises, people and records for the purposes of the monitoring visit. If a centre fails to provide access, then Gateway Qualifications will take appropriate action.

Once a visit date has been agreed, the centre should ensure that the appropriate members of staff attend the meeting, all requested documentation is provided and access to qualification, learner and staff records is available.

If a centre cancels a pre-arranged monitoring visit at short notice the EQA must be satisfied that there was a legitimate reason for the cancellation. If this cannot be established, Gateway Qualifications reserves the right to withhold certification claims until a monitoring visit is completed.

Following the visit, the EQA completes a monitoring report which will be sent to the centre for reference afterwards.

The frequency of the quality monitoring visits will be determined by the volume of learner registrations and the actions arising from previous monitoring activity. Centres found in breach of these procedures may be subject to sanctions by Gateway Qualifications. Please refer to the Gateway Qualifications Sanctions Policy.

## 6.1 Internal Quality Assurance

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As the assessments are tutor marked the centre must operate an internal quality assurance process. This ensures that qualification standards are being applied consistently within a centre through training, standardisation, sampling of marking and feedback. A centre's internal quality assurance process is led by the Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) who is responsible for ensuring that all tutors are marking assessments in line with the standards set by Gateway Qualifications.

### Internal Standardisation

Internal standardisation is a collaborative process by which tutors within a centre consider work that they have marked and, using pre-determined criteria, reach a common agreement on standards as being typical of work at a particular level by comparing samples and providing peer evaluation.

Standardisation will be facilitated by the Centre's IQA and should include all those involved in marking assessments. Centre standardisation events should be held at regular intervals and to a schedule which reflects delivery patterns and supports the marking of live assessments. Centres will be required to keep records of each internal standardisation event including the date, attendees and notes on any outcomes and actions. Centres will be required to store these reports securely for three years and Gateway Qualifications may ask to see these records as part of the centre quality assurance and monitoring activities.

## 6.2 Quality assuring centre marking

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Once the internal quality assurance process is complete, an EQA will be allocated to a centre to sample the centre marking.

The sample selected is based on the number of learners and the centre's risk rating, derived from centre monitoring.

Evidence of the inconsistent marking and actions taken informs the centre's risk rating and this information will be taken into account with the sampling of future assessments, for example, leading to an increase in sampling size.

### 6.3 Malpractice

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Malpractice is any deliberate activity, neglect, default or other practice that compromises the integrity of the internal and external assessment process, and/or the validity of certificates. It covers any deliberate actions, neglect, default or other practice that compromises, or could compromise:

- the assessment process
- the integrity of a regulated qualification
- the validity of a result or certificate
- the reputation and credibility of Gateway Qualifications
- the qualification to the public at large.

Centre staff should be familiar with the contents of Gateway Qualifications [Malpractice and Maladministration Policy](#).

### 6.4 Additional quality assurance requirements

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There are no additional internal/external quality assurance requirements for these qualifications.

## 7 Learner Registration and Results

### 7.1 Registration

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Centres will register learners via the online registration portal. Learner registration guidance is available on our website, <https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/advice-guidance/help-admin-tasks/registering-learners/>.

### 7.2 Awarding

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The qualifications will be awarded as Pass or Fail.

### 7.3 Issuing results

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Results for learners who do not reach the minimum standard for a pass will be recorded as fail.

### 7.4 Appeals

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Centres must have internal appeal arrangements which learners can access if they wish to appeal against a decision taken by Centres, which will include a named contact at the Centre. These arrangements have to be transparent and accessible in order that appeals from learners can be received, considered and resolved fairly.

Please refer to the Gateway Qualifications' Appeals policy:

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Appeals-Policy.pdf>

### 7.5 Enquiries

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Enquiries about assessment decisions should be made once the centre has followed its internal enquiries and appeal procedures.

Contact details are available on our website:

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/contact-us/>

## 8 What to do next

For existing centres please contact your named Development Manager or Development Officer.

For organisations, not yet registered as Gateway Qualifications centre please contact:

Gateway Qualifications  
Gateway House  
3 Tollgate Business Park  
Colchester  
CO3 8AB

Tel: 01206 911211

Email: [enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk)

## 9 Gateway Qualifications

Gateway Qualifications, a not for profit registered charity, is an Awarding Organisation based in Colchester.

We work with learning providers and industry experts to design and develop qualifications that benefit the learner and the employer.

We support flexible, responsive and quality assured learning opportunities whether it's in the classroom, at work, in the community or through distance learning.

We are recognised by Ofqual, to design, develop and submit qualifications to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and Qualification Wales to offer regulated qualifications in Wales.



Charity Registration No. 114282  
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