



Qualification Specification

**BT6C2 – VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 6
Certificate in Advanced Skin Needling**

610/5793/9

About VTCT Skills

VTCT Skills is a market-leading specialist vocational and technical Awarding Organisation.

We offer a comprehensive range of qualifications, assessments and services in 17 sectors, including Hairdressing, Beauty, Logistics and Early Years. Working closely with employers and training providers, our ranges are backed by industry and trusted around the world.

With over 3,000 training locations, we help over 120,000 learners achieve professional skills that transform their lives, every year.

For more information, please visit our website or contact our dedicated Customer Support Team via email; customersupport@vtctskills.org.uk or call +44 (0)23 8068 4500.

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1 Qualification at a glance

Qualification title	VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 6 Certificate in Advanced Skin Needling
Qualification number	610/5793/9
Product code	BT6C2
First registration date	22 nd May 2025
Age range	18+
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	298
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	213
Assessment	<p>To be awarded this qualification, learners must successfully achieve the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• External practical examination (50% of qualification grade)• External theory examination (50% of qualification grade)• External theory examination (no contribution to overall grade)• Assignment/project (no contribution to overall grade)• Clinical case studies (no contribution to overall grade)
Grading	<p>The overall qualification is graded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fail/Pass/Merit/Distinction
Entry requirements	<p>Learners are required to hold a level 3 beauty therapy or equivalent qualification that includes level 3 anatomy and physiology, or the level 3 certificate in access to aesthetic therapies.</p> <p>It is also recommended that learners hold a Level 3 Basic Life Support and Management of Anaphylaxis qualification to enable them to deal with an emergency</p>

2 About this qualification

2.1 Who is this qualification for?

The VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 6 Certificate in Advanced Skin Needling is an advanced therapy qualification aimed at level 3 qualified practitioners aged 18 and over, who wish to add this therapy to their repertoire of treatment offerings.

Learners are required to hold a level 3 beauty therapy qualification or equivalent.

2.2 What does this qualification cover?

This qualification is informed by employers, national occupational standards for beauty therapy, and the frameworks established by the Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) and the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA). It includes all the required elements to work effectively as a fully commercial skin needling practitioner. Learners must achieve all mandatory units, which encompass the competencies and standards outlined by the JCCP and CPSA, ensuring practitioners can evidence their competence, commitment to public safety, and adherence to agreed standards of practice. This qualification also integrates the CPSA's guidelines on non-surgical cosmetic treatments, emphasising professionalism and health and safety.

Learners must achieve all mandatory units which include:

- Principles, practices and ethical considerations for advanced aesthetic therapies
- Consultative techniques in advanced aesthetic therapies
- Dermatological science for advanced aesthetic therapies
- Provide advanced skin needling treatments

Throughout this qualification, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of relevant anatomy and physiology and health and safety pertaining to level 4, 5 and 6 non-medical aesthetic therapies. They will also develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to consult with and analyse clients whilst providing skin needling treatments.

In parallel, learners will develop their communication and customer service skills and widen their knowledge of the principles and practices of level 4, 5 and 6 non-medical aesthetic therapies, all of which are valued highly by employers.

2.3 Why is this qualification the most suitable?

This qualification is highly suitable for individuals aiming to advance their careers in the aesthetics industry. The demand for aesthetics practitioners has grown significantly, extending beyond the scope of level 3 beauty therapists. This qualification addresses this demand by providing comprehensive training in skin needling. The qualification ensures practitioners can evidence their competence, commitment to public safety, and adherence to agreed standards of practice.

2.4 What could this qualification lead to?

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare learners for employment in the advanced non-medical aesthetic industry providing skin needling techniques. Additionally, learners may choose to further develop their knowledge and skills by completing supplementary specialist qualifications.

3 Qualification structure

To be awarded the VTCT Skills (ITEC) Level 6 Certificate in Advanced Skin Needling learners must achieve all mandatory units.

To be awarded this qualification learners must achieve a Pass (or higher) grade in:

- all external examinations
- all assignments
- all clinical case studies
- the practical examination

The minimum TQT required to achieve this qualification is **298**.

Product code	Unit title	Level	GLH	Unit reference number
Mandatory units				
UBT501	Principles, practices and ethical considerations for advanced aesthetic therapies	4	40	J/651/6101
UBT502	Consultative techniques in advanced aesthetic therapies	4	43	K/651/6102
UBT503	Dermatological science for advanced aesthetic therapies	4	50	D/651/6136
UBT505	Provide advanced skin needling treatments	6	80	D/651/6136

4 Centre requirements

4.1 Approval and recognition

Existing centres that wish to deliver this qualification must obtain recognition using the standard qualification recognition procedures.

New centres that want to deliver this qualification must gain both centre approval and qualification recognition. Please refer to the VTCT Skills website for further information.

Centre staff should be familiar with current practices and standards in the sector and with the qualification structure, content, assessment and quality assurance arrangements before designing a course programme.

4.2 Resources

Centres must possess the physical resources needed to support the delivery of the programme and the assessment of knowledge and skills, which should therefore be of industry standard. Where specific resources are required, these have been indicated in individual units.

It is the centres responsibility to ensure:

- all equipment used conforms to EU-Electromagnetic compliance Directive 2014/30/EU, EU low voltage Directive 2014/35/EU and the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994/2016 as applicable
- products used are those approved by EU Cosmetics Regulations for cosmetic use by practitioner
- adequate insurance is in place, as recommended by industry, at all times, to include cover for all learners, staff and clients attending VTCT Skills courses

4.3 Teaching staff

In order to deliver this qualification, teaching staff must:

- be occupational experts and have knowledge and understanding in the area for which they are delivering training. This knowledge must be at the same level as or higher than the training being delivered
- hold an appropriate qualification or accredited training in the subject to be taught. In the absence of a regulated qualification, staff members will be required to demonstrate Continued Professional Development (CPD) with accredited training providers, for each qualification that the approval application lists. Staff would then be required to agree to update their training to a full qualification within 18 months of being approved to deliver. If for any reason the staff member fails to achieve the qualification, the centre would be required to find another competent member of staff to deliver the program or forfeit the right to deliver the qualification.
- understand the qualification's structure and content, and the learning outcomes they are delivering
- have recent and relevant industry experience in the specific area they are delivering
- have credible experience of teaching and/or providing training
- hold or be actively pursuing an appropriate teaching/training qualification
- undertake activities which contribute to their continuing professional development (CPD)

4.4 Internal assessors

The lecturer/internal assessor will assess and mark the assignments/case studies and the VTCT Skills (iTEC) external examiner will verify a sample, either in situ on the day of the practical examination or remotely on e-portfolio. The centre assessors must ensure assessment decisions are consistently applied and that learner work is to the required standard. Each assessor's work will be checked and confirmed by the examiner. Assessment decisions must be standardised to ensure that all learners' work has been assessed to the same standard and is fair, valid and reliable.

For information on the roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities of assessors refer to VTCT Skills Centre Handbook, which can be downloaded from the VTCT Skills website.

4.5 Record keeping

Centres must produce and retain records that include:

- learners on programme, including learner name, date of birth, contact details, assessor's name, IQA's name, and registration date with VTCT Skills
- learner assessment records detailing who assessed what and when, the assessment methods used, the location of the supporting evidence, and the assessment decision/grade awarded with supporting evidence

4.6 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is defined under the Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition, General Condition J1.8, as the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

TQT 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 as directed – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

The TQT for this qualification is detailed in Section 3 of this specification.

5 Assessment

5.1 Summary of assessment methods

This qualification comprises internal and external assessments. Learners must achieve the assessments detailed in the table below.

Assessment method	Overview of controls
External theory examination 1: UBT501, UBT502, UBT503	Externally set and externally marked examination. The examination assesses knowledge and understanding from the breadth of the mandatory non-treatment specific units.
External theory examination 2: UBT505	Externally set and externally marked examination. The examination assesses knowledge and understanding from the breadth of the mandatory treatment specific unit.
External practical examination: UBT505	Externally set, examined and marked by an external examiner. Overarching examination that assesses the learner's technical skills and abilities. The practical examination will take place at the end of the period of learning.
Assignment	Externally set and internally marked. The assignments do not contribute to the overall grade but contribute to the assessment outcome of the qualification. This is a prerequisite evidence requirement which must be completed prior to learners undertaking the external graded examinations.
Clinical case studies	Externally set and internally marked. This is a prerequisite evidence requirement which must be completed prior to learners undertaking the external graded examinations. The case studies can be evidenced as the treatments conducted during training.

Internal assessment materials are available to download from the VTCT Skills website.

5.2 Unit assessment methods

The table below identifies the assessment methods used to assess mandatory units.

Unit product code	Theory Examination	Practical Examination	Clinical Case Studies	Assignment
UBT501	✓			✓
UBT502	✓			✓
UBT503	✓			✓
UBT505	✓	✓	✓	

5.3 Contribution of assessment to the overall qualification grade

Whilst all units and assessments contribute to the assessment outcome of the qualification, only unit UBT505 contributes to the overall grade of the qualification. The table below outlines the grading model for each assessment method and the contribution of each to the overall qualification grade.

Assessment method	Grading model	Contribution to the qualification grade
External theory examination 1: UBT501, UBT502, UBT503	Pass/Fail	This examination does not contribute to the overall grade but contribute to the assessment outcome of the qualification.
External theory examination 2: UBT505	Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction	50%
External practical examination: UBT505	Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction	50%
Assignment	Pass/Fail	This examination does not contribute to the overall grade but contribute to the assessment outcome of the qualification.
Clinical Case Studies	Pass/Fail	This examination does not contribute to the overall grade but contribute to the assessment outcome of the qualification.

5.4 External assessment

5.4.1 Test specification

The specification for the external examination is detailed below.

External examination 1	
Availability (Exam sessions)	To be taken on the scheduled date for examination purposes as agreed by VTCT Skills. Available to sit online.
Assessment controls	Task setting – high control. The external examination is set and marked by VTCT Skills. Task taking – high control. The examination must take place under controlled examination conditions and in the exam sessions published by VTCT Skills. Centres must ensure that learners are suitably prepared for assessment. Task marking – high control. The examination is marked by VTCT Skills.
Duration	108 minutes
Number of marks	54
Grading model	Pass/Fail
Pass Mark	70%
Units covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UBT501 – Principles, practices, and ethical considerations for advanced aesthetic therapies• UBT502 – Consultative techniques in advanced aesthetic therapies• UBT503 – Dermatological science for advanced aesthetic practices
Type of examination	Multiple-choice questions to cover the assessment criteria within the unit.

External examination 2	
Availability (Exam sessions)	To be taken on the scheduled date for examination purposes as agreed by VTCT Skills. Available to sit online.
Assessment controls	<p>Task setting – high control. The external examination is set and marked by VTCT Skills.</p> <p>Task taking – high control. The examination must take place under controlled examination conditions and in the exam sessions published by VTCT Skills. Centres must ensure that learners are suitably prepared for assessment.</p> <p>Task marking – high control. The examination is marked by VTCT Skills.</p>
Duration	108 minutes
Number of marks	54
Grading model	<p>Fail: 0-59% Points = 0</p> <p>Pass: 60-74% Points = 550</p> <p>Merit: 75-89% Points = 600</p> <p>Distinction: 90-100% Points = 650</p>
Units Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UBT505 – Provide advanced skin needling treatments
Contribution to overall qualification grade	50%
Type of examination	Multiple-choice questions to cover the assessment criteria within the unit.

Learners, based on marks achieved in the examinations, are awarded points that contribute to the overall qualification grade.

Examinations must be undertaken by learners under controlled examination conditions in accordance with VTCT Skills policies and procedures for external assessment.

5.4.2 Retaking external examinations

Learners who fail to achieve the required Pass mark are permitted to re-sit after having sufficient teaching and additional study time. There is no limit to the number of retakes a learner can carry out.

5.4.3 Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Information on the reasonable adjustments allowed for the external examinations within this qualification can be found in the Policies section on the VTCT Skills website.

5.4.4 External practical examination

Practical examinations are externally set, externally examined, graded and quality assured by VTCT Skills. Information on how to operate practical examinations can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

In preparation for the external practical examination, centres are advised to ensure learners have carried out a series of clinical case studies comprising of complete practical treatments, in accordance with VTCT Skills marking criteria, which must be observed and marked by the centre lecturer/assessors. All treatments must be deemed commercially acceptable by the centre lecturer/assessors.

It is essential centres use the Practical Examination Criteria document in order to make assessment judgments when preparing for examinations. This can be found on a secure portal area on the VTCT Skills website.

The practical examination preparation must take place in a realistic working environment on a real client and in a commercially acceptable time frame for each mandatory unit that contains a practical element.

The practical examination for this qualification will assess the treatment at Level 6, which involves administering a skin needling treatment which penetrates 1.5mm to the face or 2mm to the body.

External practical examination	
Availability (Exam sessions)	To be taken on the scheduled date for examination purposes as agreed by VTCT Skills and invigilated an examiner.
Assessment controls	<p>Task setting – high control. The external examination is set and marked by VTCT Skills.</p> <p>Task taking – high control. The examination must take place under controlled examination conditions and in the exam sessions published by VTCT Skills. Centres must ensure that learners are suitably prepared for assessment.</p> <p>Task marking – high control. The examination is marked by VTCT Skills.</p>
Grading model	<p>Fail: 0-59% Points = 0</p> <p>Pass: 60-74% Points = 550</p> <p>Merit: 75-89% Points = 600</p> <p>Distinction: 90-100% Points = 650</p>
Units Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UBT505 – Provide advanced skin needling treatments
Contribution to overall qualification grade	50%
Type of examination	Practical examined assessment

Practical skills examination sequence (approximately 1 hour)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examiner must be shown evidence of a skin sensitivity test 2. and initial consultation 3. Assist client onto the couch and carry out the treatment consultation 4. Prepare the area for treatment 5. Take pre-treatment photograph 6. Perform a pre-treatment test – client 7. Perform treatment 8. Apply aftercare including post-treatment photograph 9. Give home care advice <p>Oral questions will be asked as part of the external practical examination to ensure assessment criteria not naturally met as part of the treatment is assessed.</p> <p>Consultation forms must be filled in by each learner for the unit and made available for the external examiner to check. These should be reviewed and completed at the end of the treatment and will be taken away by the external examiner.</p> <p>Learners will be expected to demonstrate excellent hygiene and client care throughout as well as competence in their relevant skills. The external examiner may reduce the treatment timings, as the examination is a demonstration of the learner's professionalism and their accomplished technique.</p>
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5.4.5 Retaking external practical examination

Learners who fail to achieve the required Pass mark are permitted to re-sit after having sufficient teaching and additional study time.

5.5 Internal assessment

5.5.1 Clinical Case studies

The clinical case studies are an evidence requirement which must be completed prior to learners undertaking the practical and theoretical examinations.

VTCT Skills specifies the amount of clinical case studies to be carried out and evidenced in the portfolio within the unit specifications. These can be found on the VTCT Skills website on the relevant qualification page.

The clinical case studies can be used as a confirmatory and formative assessment to prepare learners for the practical and theoretical examinations. The purpose of this portfolio is to evaluate learner performance and use the information gathered to shape and improve learners' performance in preparation for summative examination. Centres should also consider the use of formative self and peer assessment as part of the learning journey.

Whilst the clinical case studies do not contribute to the overall grade, they will be marked pass or fail by the centre lecturer/assessor and sampled by the external examiner.

5.5.2 Assignments (SAR A & B) – short answer response

These on demand summative assignments will be used to measure the learner's knowledge and understanding of the supporting theory linked to advanced aesthetic treatments. The short answer response assignments will target indicative content from within the UBT501, UBT502 and UBT503 specifications which is of a lower priority compared to the knowledge and understanding assessed in the external objective examination. For example, the historical context of aesthetic treatments. Centres can access the short answer response assignments via the VTCT Skills website.

5.5.3 Authentication of learner work

Whilst the majority of units in this qualification require evidence to be produced for assessment under direct supervision and highly controlled conditions, some units require learners to produce evidence without supervision.

Where this is the case, centres must be confident that learners' work is authentic. In such cases, learners must complete a Declaration of Authenticity to confirm that the work produced is their own. This must be countersigned by an assessor. A Declaration of Authenticity form is available to download from the VTCT Skills website.

Centres must ensure that all learner evidence is available to the EQA.

The authentication of learner evidence is the responsibility of the centre.

6 Grading

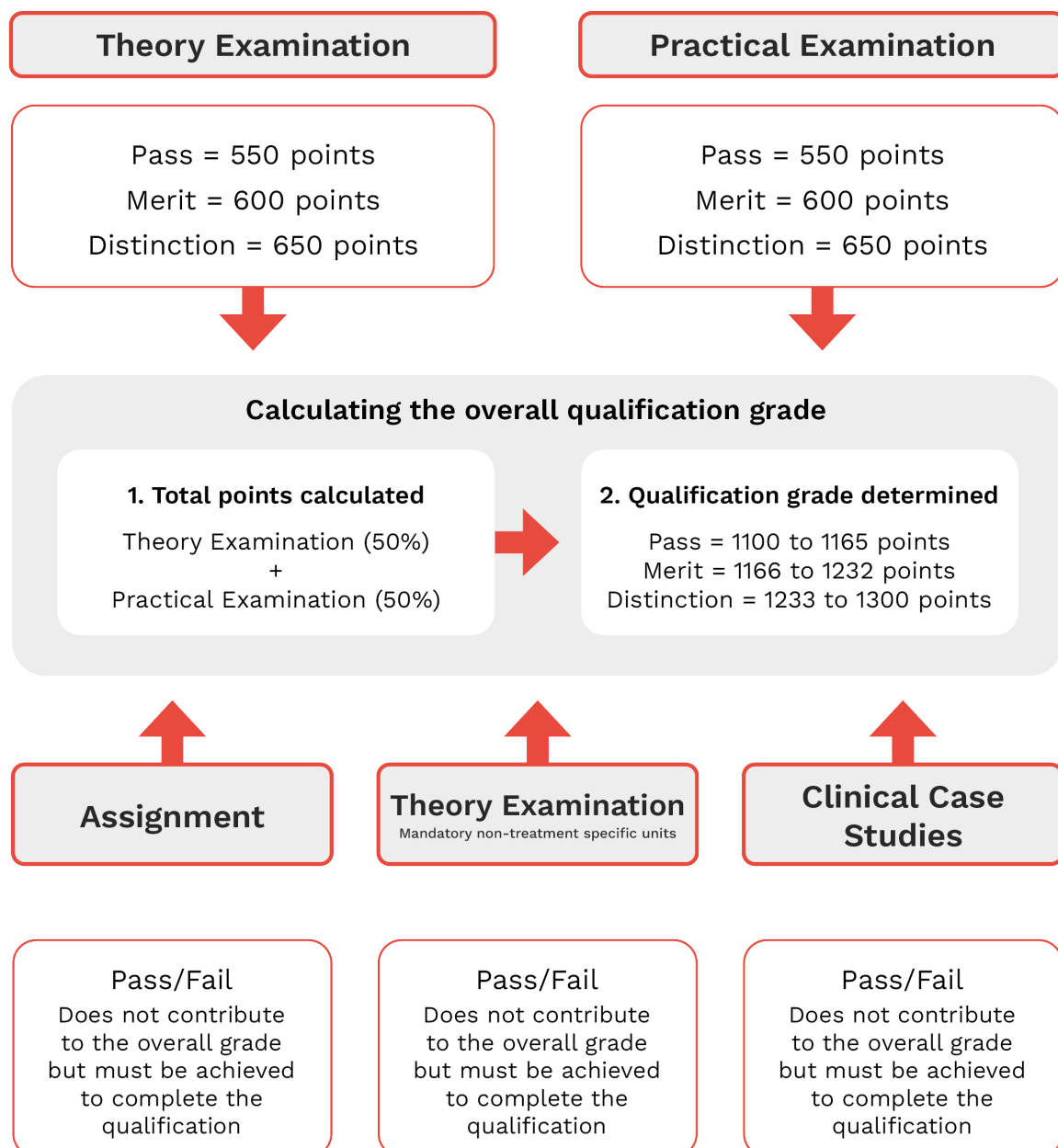
6.1 Overview

This qualification is graded Fail/Pass/Merit/Distinction.

The grading model employed in this qualification differentiates learner performance and in particular recognises high achievement.

There are two separate components in the grading model for this qualification, a graded external theory examination and a graded external practical examination. Each component contributes 50% to the overall qualification grade.

Learners must achieve a Pass grade or higher in the external theory and practical examinations. The grades achieved in each assessment correlate to points. These points will then be added together to determine the overall grade of the qualification.



7 External Examiner

7.1 External Examiner visits

This qualification is externally examined by VTCT Skills. Centres delivering this qualification will have a quality assurance visit each time an examiner visits the centre.

On a centre visit an examiner:

- examines all learners entered for the external practical examination
- samples learners' internal assessments
- verifies that appropriate staff and sufficient resources are in place, and that the centre is continuing to meet the criteria specified in the centre contract
- checks that the centre's policies and procedures continue to VTCT Skills requirements
- verifies internal assessments

7.2 Spot checking

In addition to the scheduled practical examination visits, targeted and unannounced spot checks of centres delivering this qualification will be undertaken as part of VTCT Skills formal quality assurance process.

7.3 Support and guidance

Unit specifications, consultation sheets and internal assessment materials are available to support qualification delivery and assessment.

For more information, visit the VTCT Skills website.

8 Unit structure

Units are available as separate specifications and can be downloaded from the VTCT Skills website. Units that make up this qualification are structured as follows:

Product code	The code allocated by VTCT Skills. This should be used when communicating directly with VTCT Skills.
Title	Reflects the content of the unit.
Unit reference number	This is the unit reference number as detailed on Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications.
Level	This represents the level of achievement. The National Qualifications Framework level descriptors and similar qualifications at this level inform the allocation of the unit level.
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	All units have GLH assigned to them. This is the time a learner spends: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• being taught or given instruction by a lecturer, tutor, supervisor or other appropriate provider of education or training
Overview	Provides a summary of what learners will cover in a unit, and outlines the knowledge, understanding and skills to be developed.
Learning outcomes	Specify what a learner will know, understand and be able to do as a result of completing a unit.
Assessment criteria	Assessment criteria specify the minimum standard required by the learner to achieve the relevant grade. Learners must provide sufficient and valid evidence to achieve the grade.
Taught content	Provides the basis for the teaching, learning and assessment of each learning outcome. Teachers and tutors should ensure that the full breadth of unit content is delivered.
Assessment requirements	Details the assessments that must be completed and achieved to be awarded a unit. For more information on assessment methods see Section 5 of this specification.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1.0	13/05/2025	First published	Qualification Development Manager