



Qualification Specification

MH2C1 – VTCT Skills Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Awareness

603/7105/5

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 Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Awareness
Qualification number	603/7105/5
Product code	MH2C1
First registration date	1 st April 2021
Age range	16-18, 19+
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	132
Guided Learning (GL) hours	120
Assessment	To be awarded this qualification, learners must successfully achieve the following assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally set and externally marked theory examination
Grading	Fail/Pass
Entry requirements	There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification. Learners may benefit from achieving the VTCT Skills Level 1 Award in Mental Health Awareness first.
Qualification endorsement	<p>This qualification is fully endorsed by the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).</p>  

2 About this qualification

2.1 Who is this qualification for?

The VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Awareness is a VRQ aimed at learners aged 16+ who are either in a full-time education programme, a part time programme at a college or with a private training provider. The purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with an understanding of mental health and mental ill-health. Learners will develop knowledge of a range of mental health conditions, the issues surrounding mental health and the legal frameworks that impact on the quality of care provided.

2.2 What does this qualification cover?

The qualification includes ten mandatory units which include:

- Understanding what is meant by mental health and mental ill-health
- Understand the changes in mental health care
- Raising awareness of a range of mental health conditions
- Understanding the legal context of mental health
- Understand the ways in which mental health conditions can be managed

Throughout this qualification, learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of mental health conditions, their causes, signs and symptoms and ways in which these conditions will be managed. The qualification will also aim to raise awareness of the issues surrounding mental health and dispel some of the myths and misconceptions often linked to mental health.

2.3 What could this qualification lead to?

Learners undertaking this qualification may wish progress to other mental health related qualifications including:

- Mental Health First Aid qualifications
- Mental wellbeing in children/young people

3 Qualification structure

3.1 Qualification structure

To be awarded the VTCT Skills Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Awareness learners must achieve all mandatory units.

The minimum TQT required to achieve this qualification is 132.

Product code	Unit title	Level	GL	Unit reference number
Mandatory unit				
UMH2	Understanding mental health	2	36	J/618/6282
UMH3	Understanding stress and anxiety	2	12	L/618/6283
UMH4	Understanding depression	2	9	R/618/6284
UMH5	Understanding post-natal depression	2	9	Y/618/6285
UMH6	Understanding eating disorders	2	9	D/618/6286
UMH7	Understanding obsessive compulsive disorder	2	9	H/618/6287
UMH8	Understanding phobias	2	9	K/618/6288
UMH9	Understanding bipolar disorder	2	9	M/618/6289
UMH10	Understanding dementia	2	9	H/618/6290
UMH11	Understanding schizophrenia	2	9	K/618/6291

3.2 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.

4 Guidance on assessment

4.1 Summary of assessment methods

The assessment method for this qualification is external assessment. Learners must achieve the assessment detailed in the table below.

Mandatory units	External theory examination
Unit product code	MH2C1.EX1
UMH2	✓
UMH3	
UMH4	
UMH5	
UMH6	
UMH7	
UMH8	
UMH9	
UMH10	
UMH11	

4.2 External assessment

4.2.1 External theory examination

The theory examination will be set and marked by VTCT Skills. The theory examination will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions will cover all learning outcomes within the mandatory units. The pass mark for the theory examination will be 70%.

External examinations must be undertaken by learners under controlled examination conditions in accordance with policies and procedures for external assessment which can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

4.2.2 Retaking external theory 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. External examinations will be subject to rotation by VTCT Skills. Re-sits are subject to charges as stated in the 'VTCT Skills Service Fees'.

4.2.3 Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

A reasonable adjustment is an adjustment made to an assessment for a qualification that is approved or set in place before an assessment activity takes place; it constitutes an arrangement to give the learner access to the qualification.

Information on the reasonable adjustments and special considerations allowed for the external theory examination within this qualification can be found on the VTCT Skills website.

4.3 Spot Checking

In addition to the scheduled theory examination, targeted and unannounced spot checks of centres delivering this qualification will be undertaken as part of the awarding organisation's formal quality assurance process.

5 Support and guidance

Unit specifications are available to support qualification delivery and assessment.

For more information, visit the VTCT Skills website (www.vtctskills.org.uk).

6 Unit structure

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

Product code	The code allocated by the awarding organisation. This should be used when communicating directly with the awarding organisation.
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 (GL) hours	All units have GL 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 and understanding to be developed.
Learning outcomes	Specify what a learner will know and understand 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 4 of this specification.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1	01/04/2021	First published	Product and Regulation Manager
v2	11/03/2024	Updated CIMSPA logo	Qualifications Administrator
v3	01/01/2025	New branding	Qualifications Administrator
v4.0	29/06/2026	Updated CIMSPA logo	Development Administrator