

Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualifications Cambridge Advanced Nationals explained

May 2025 – Version 4

Academic study for students aged 16 and over



Contents

- 2 | **Background**
- 3 | **What are Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)?**
- 5 | **Our range of subjects**
- 6 | **Why choose Cambridge Advanced Nationals?**
- 8 | **Our support package – everything you need to start teaching**
- 10 | **Our Cambridge Advanced Nationals subjects – Qualification overview**

Background

Following a review of Level 3 post-16 vocational qualifications in 2022, the Department for Education (DfE):

- Proposed the defunding of 16–19 qualifications which overlapped with T Levels, qualifications more suited to a technical qualification, or qualifications in subjects that had an A Level (apart from STEM subjects).
- Introduced Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) to replace the defunded qualifications.
- Created two routes for students from 2025:
 - **Academic:** A Levels or a mixture of A Levels and AAQs
 - **Technical:** T Levels and approved technical qualifications

Following the general election, the new government led DfE conducted a rapid review of these changes to determine which qualifications would be funded in England from 2025. They published the outcomes in December 2024:

- All Level 3 qualifications with 360 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and below in subjects that overlap with T Levels, and have a replacement AAQ already approved, would be defunded along with any other qualifications with fewer than 100 enrolments in the last 3 years.

- Large Level 3 qualifications would remain funded (720 and 1080 GLH) but will be reviewed in the government's Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR).
- Cycle 1 AAQs including Cambridge Advanced Nationals are funded for first teaching September 2025.
- Centres are no longer required to include A Levels in an AAQ study programme. The review concluded that the government would not proceed with proposed rules of combination for post-16 mixed study programmes.

For more information see our [Post-16 reform hubpage](#).



What are Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)?

Designed for students aged 16 to 19 years, AAQs are Level 3 qualifications that can be combined together or with A Levels and other Level 3 qualifications, as part of a post-16 study programme.

Introducing Cambridge Advanced Nationals

Cambridge Advanced Nationals, our new Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs), encourage students to:

- Develop subject specific key knowledge, understanding, and skills
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically
- Develop valuable communication skills that are important in all aspects of further study and life
- Develop transferable skills, such as evaluation, planning, presentation, and research skills
- Develop independence and confidence in applying their knowledge and skills

What sizes are available?

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are currently available as 150/180 GLH Certificates (AS Level size) and 360 GLH Extended Certificates (A Level size). By offering both a Certificate and Extended Certificate, we ensure students don't miss out:

- Our qualifications have Certificates embedded in them – if a student starts a course late or needs to leave early – they won't leave empty handed
- Completing the relevant units first, can make sure all students achieve at least an AS Level-sized qualification

How are Cambridge Advanced Nationals assessed?

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are assessed holistically and have a simple and intuitive assessment model, comprising:

- externally assessed units, which focus on subject knowledge and understanding
- applied or practical Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) units
- optional NEA units to provide flexibility



Where do they fit in a post-16 study programme?

Students who don't want to study only A Levels (or a T Level) can choose a mixed study programme. With the rules of combination being relaxed, students can combine a variety of qualifications with no minimum number of A Levels.

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are designed to complement other existing qualifications and can be combined in any way with A Levels, Cambridge Technicals or other Level 3 qualifications as a part of a post-16 programme of study. Some examples of possible combinations of Level 3 qualifications include:



You can check out our examples of subject combinations [here](#).

UCAS Tariff points

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are worth UCAS Tariff points and our qualifications are on the UCAS Tariff points calculator.

UCAS Tariff points	Certificate	Extended Certificate	AS Level	A Level
56		D*		A*
48		D		A
40				B
32		M		C
28	D*			
24	D			D
20			A	
16	M	P	B	E
12			C	
10			D	
8	P			
6			E	

We have letters of support from a wide range of universities, including Russell Group universities. You can find these on the individual qualification pages on our website: ocr.org.uk/cambridge-advanced-nationals

Our range of subjects

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are being developed in cycles. Cycle 1 qualifications are for first teaching in September 2025.

Available from September 2025

The following Cambridge Advanced Nationals have been approved for funding for **first teaching in September 2025** and can be taken as a part of a post-16 programme of study.

Cycle 1		
Subject	Size	First teach
Applied Science	180 and 360 GLH	September 2025
Computing: Application Development	150 and 360 GLH	September 2025
Engineering	180 and 360 GLH	September 2025
Health and Social Care	180 and 360 GLH	September 2025
Human Biology	180 and 360 GLH	September 2025
IT: Data Analytics	150 and 360 GLH	September 2025

Planned for September 2026 (subject to approval)

We've submitted the following Cambridge Advanced Nationals to the DfE for approval. If approved, these new qualifications will be available for **first teaching from September 2026**.

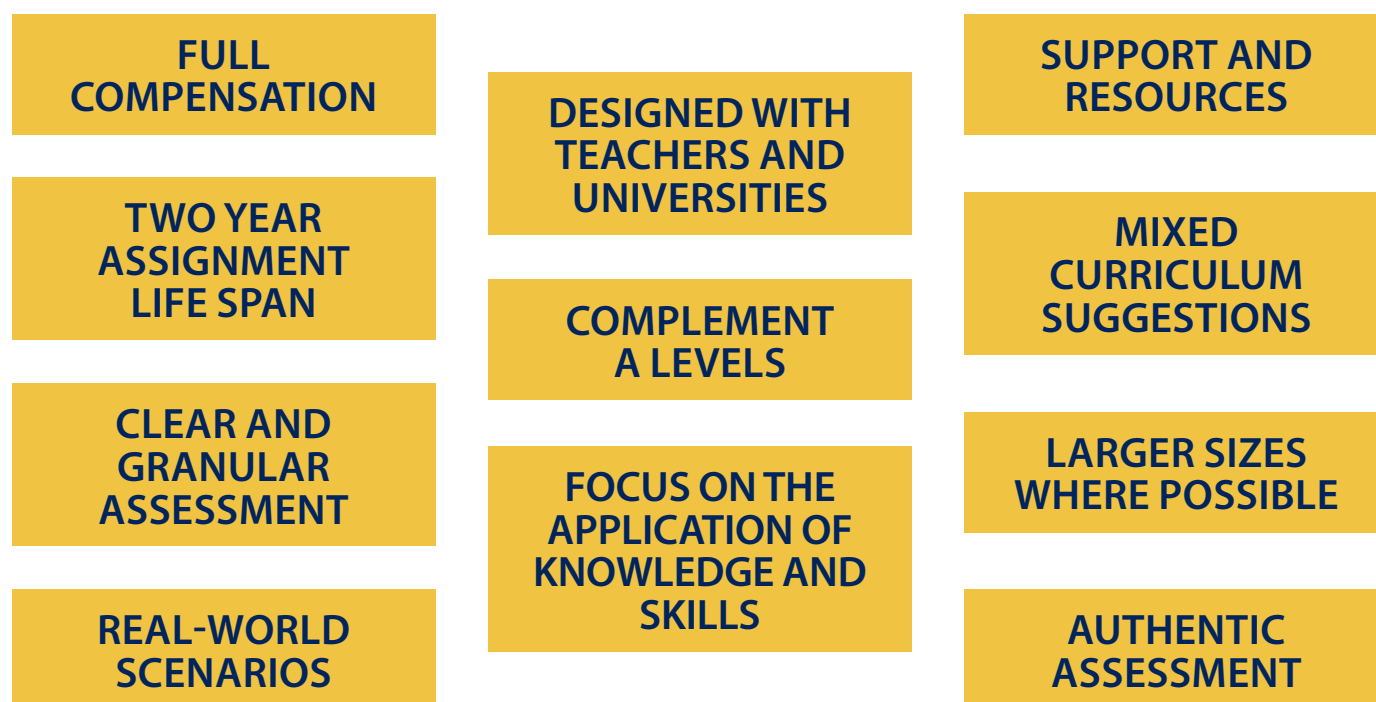
Subject	Size	First teach
Cyber Security and Networks	150 and 360 GLH	September 2026 (subject to approval)
Mental Health: Individuals and Society	180 and 360 GLH	September 2026 (subject to approval)

Our intention is also to develop Cambridge Advanced Nationals in the following subjects. The DfE have not yet announced a submission date for these.

Cycle 2		
Subject	Size	First teach
Creative Media Production	180, 360 and 720 GLH	TBC
Sport, Exercise and Health	180, 360, 720 and 1080 GLH	TBC
Enterprise and Innovation	180 and 360 GLH	TBC
Policing and Criminal Justice	180 and 360 GLH	TBC
Marketing	180 and 360 GLH	TBC

Why choose Cambridge Advanced Nationals?

With our new Cambridge Advanced Nationals we've taken everything you and your students love about our existing qualifications and made them even better.



Key benefits

- **Full compensation grading:** Students are always rewarded for their demonstrated abilities – every single mark your students earn will directly contribute to their final grade. No mark will go to waste.
- **No more hurdles:** Hurdle elements in units are no longer required. If a student meets all but one Pass criterion and some Merit criteria, they won't face failure. Our approach rewards performance across both unit and qualification levels, ensuring fairness and encouragement for every student.
- **Features teachers love:**
 - Visiting moderation
 - The Certificate drop down to protect students' achievement
 - The exam: NEA ratio, favouring practical work over question papers
 - The well-recognised Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* grade scale
 - Optionality, allowing you to tailor your course
- **Pathways to university:** Designed in collaboration with teachers and universities, Cambridge Advanced Nationals equip students with UCAS points and a well-rounded skill set for today's undergraduate studies as part of a Level 3 programme of study.

Our marking approach – every mark matters

How it works at qualification level

Each mark that a student achieves counts towards their final qualification outcome.

Old hurdles model

P1	M1	D1
P2	M2	D2
P3	M3	
P4		

The red criteria haven't been achieved. In the model above, M1, M2 and D1 wouldn't count towards the final qualification grade, because the student would be capped at a Pass.

for each unit can be found in the specification. The example above is simplified for illustration.

Our new model

P1	M1	D1
P2	M2	D2
P3	M3	
P4		

Using our new approach, M1, M2 and D1 all count towards the final qualification grade, as every mark counts.^{Boundaries*}

Every mark matters – at unit level

Green criteria have been achieved, red have not been achieved.

Old hurdles model

P1	M1	D1
P2	M2	D2
P3	M3	
P4		

In the model above, the student would fail the unit, as they haven't achieved all the Pass criteria.

Boundaries* for each unit can be found in the specification. The example above is simplified for illustration.

Our new model

P1	M1	D1
P2	M2	D2
P3	M3	
P4		

Using our new approach, the same student would now pass the unit – as they've achieved enough criteria and points to meet the pass boundary.



Our support package – everything you need to start teaching

Embarking on the journey of teaching a new qualification may seem overwhelming at first, but rest assured, we are here to support you every step of the way. Whether it's getting started with teaching, planning your course, providing guidance for exams, or offering post-results services, we have a wealth of resources, and training to assist you at every stage.

What does our support package look like?

Teaching and learning	Assessment	Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook and third-party support • Switching Guide • Mapping Guide • Getting Started Guide • Curriculum Planner • Scheme of Work • E-Learning course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated Sample Assessment Materials • Assessment Story • Practice Papers • Candidate Style Answers (EA) • Candidate Style Work (NEA) • NEA Guide • Student Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing AAQs and understanding the compensation model • Starting to Teach • Ask the SA • Ask the Moderator • Preparing for the Exam • Preparing for the NEA • Exploring the exam (after live examination series) • Exploring the NEA (after live examination series) • Enhance your teaching

Mapping and switching guides

Our guides help make the move to OCR easy by clearly illustrating how our Cambridge Advanced Nationals structure, assessment, grading, administration and units compare to Level 3 Cambridge Technicals, Level 3 BTECs or other Level 3 qualifications you're currently teaching.

Free teaching and assessment resources, including detailed schemes of work for every unit

For Cambridge Advanced Nationals we've created a new style of Scheme of Work. We understand the challenges teachers face when delivering a new qualification for the first time, so we've designed a comprehensive scheme of work for each unit in each qualification to take the heavy lifting out of planning and preparation for them. The schemes of work will also support non-subject specialists and Early Career Teachers (ECTs).

Our large and comprehensive schemes of work include:

- Lesson by lesson – the whole specification is broken down into single 1 GLH lessons
- Editable
- Key words are highlighted
- Learning outcomes – what the students should know
- by the end of the lesson
- Teaching ideas for lesson starter and main activities and student independent learning are included
- Links to useful resources to support lessons
- Subject knowledge support

Textbooks and other third-party resources

OCR qualifications are supported by endorsed and non-endorsed resources.

- Endorsed Resources – Endorsement by OCR indicates a resource is a valuable support tool for you and your students.
- Non-endorsed resources – Third-party resources that have not been subject to review and so we cannot offer recommendations or guarantee the quality. Please preview before use.

Textbooks

Publisher	Subject
Cambridge	Computing: Application Development IT: Data Analytics Engineering Health and Social Care
Zig Zag Education	Applied Science Health and Social Care
eboru	Health and Social Care

Teaching resources

Publisher	Subject
Zig Zag Education	Computing: Application Development IT: Data Analytics
Primrose Kitten	Human Biology

An extensive professional development programme

Our range of professional development training courses and events will help you get the most from our qualifications, from making the choice to deliver Cambridge Advanced Nationals to preparing your students for assessment.

Exceptional post-results services

Our services include results analysis and free on-demand Access to Scripts.

All our support will be instantly and easily accessible via Teach Cambridge, our online hub for teachers.



Our Cambridge Advanced Nationals subjects – Qualification overview



Qualification overview – Applied Science

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science provides students with a theoretical knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of science, preparing them for progression to undergraduate study. It covers core topics of biology, physics and chemistry and will equip students with relevant industry skills through researching, planning and performing a range of different laboratory investigations.

There are 2 qualifications available in Applied Science. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H051	610/3947/0	180 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H151	610/3948/2	360 GLH	3	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F180	Fundamentals of science	External Assessment	Mandatory
F181	Science in society	External Assessment	Mandatory
F182	Investigating science	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F183	Analytical techniques in chemistry	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F184	Environmental studies	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F185	Forensic biology	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F186	Medical physics	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Human Biology

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of biology, that provides them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the medical science sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in Human Biology. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H049	610/3945/7	180 GLH	3	0	40%	60%
Extended Certificate	H149	610/3946/9	360 GLH	4	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F170	Fundamentals of human biology	External Assessment	Mandatory
F171	Health and disease	External Assessment	Mandatory
F172	Genetics	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F173	Biomedical techniques	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F174	Nutrition and metabolism	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F175	Human reproduction	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F176	The brain	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F177	Drug development	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Computing: Application Development

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of application development, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the ICT practitioners sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in Computing: Application Development. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Computing: Application Development (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H029	610/3974/3	150 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H129	610/3975/5	360 GLH	3	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F160	Fundamentals of application development	External Assessment	Mandatory
F161	Developing application software	External Assessment	Mandatory
F162	Designing and communicating UX/UI solutions	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F163	Game development	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F164	Website development	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F165	Immersive technology solution development	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F166	Software development	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – IT: Data Analytics

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics

Our Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of information technology and data, that provides them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the information technology sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in IT: Data Analytics. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H019	610/3996/2	150 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H119	610/3997/4	360 GLH	3	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F200	Fundamentals of data analytics	External Assessment	Mandatory
F201	Big data and machine learning	External Assessment	Mandatory
F202	Spreadsheet data modelling	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F203	Relational database design	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F204	Data and the Internet of Everything (IoE)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F205	Data visualisation	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F206	Data and digital marketing	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Cyber Security and Networks

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Cyber Security and Networks

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Cyber Security and Networks will give students a thorough understanding of cyber security threats and how networks operate, preparing them for progression to undergraduate study. It will equip students with the practical skills to audit measures used on networks to protect against cyberattacks and demonstrate how these can be improved.

There are 2 qualifications available in Cyber Security and Networks. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Cyber Security (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Cyber Security and Networks (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2026 (subject to approval)

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H037	TBC	150 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H137	TBC	360 GLH	3	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F193	Fundamentals of cyber security	External Assessment	Mandatory
F194	Fundamentals of networks	External Assessment	Mandatory
F195	Preventing cyber attacks	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F196	Digital forensic investigation	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F197	Penetration testing and incident response	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F198	Implementing secure local area networks (LANs)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F199	Designing and communicating secure global computing systems	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the **draft** [specification](#)

Download **draft** [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Engineering

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Engineering

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Engineering provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of engineering, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the engineering sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in Engineering. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Engineering (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Engineering (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H027	610/3942/1	180 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H127	610/3944/5	360 GLH	3	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F130	Principles of engineering	External Assessment	Mandatory
F131	Materials science and technology	External Assessment	Mandatory
F132	Engineering in practice	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F133	Computer Aided Design (CAD)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F134	Programmable electronics	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F135	Mechanical product design	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F136	Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F137	Electrical devices and circuits	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Health and Social Care

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced Nationals in Health and Social Care

Our Cambridge Advanced Nationals in Health and Social Care provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of health and social care, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the health and social care sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in Health and Social Care. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2025

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H025	610/3985/8	180 GLH	3	0	40%	60%
Extended Certificate	H125	610/3986/X	360 GLH	4	2	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F090	Principles of health and social care	External Assessment	Mandatory
F091	Anatomy and physiology for health and social care	External Assessment	Mandatory
F092	Person-centred approach to care	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F093	Supporting people with mental health conditions	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F094	Supporting people with long term physiological conditions	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F095	Investigating public health	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F096	Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F097	Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the [specification](#)

Download [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)

Qualification overview – Mental Health: Individuals and Society

Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Mental Health: Individuals and Society

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Mental Health: Individuals and Society will give students a thorough understanding of the range of factors that can influence our mental health and the potential effects they can have. It will equip students with the practical skills needed to build their own resilience and develop strategies and techniques to support themselves, preparing them for undergraduate study making a difference within the broader health and social care sector.

There are 2 qualifications available in Mental Health: Individuals and Society. These are:

- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Mental Health: Individuals and Society (Certificate)
- OCR Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Mental Health: Individuals and Society (Extended Certificate)

For first teaching September 2026 (subject to approval)

The Extended Certificate qualification is the same size as an A Level. Students should take this alongside A Levels, or other Level 3 qualifications, as part of their programme of study at Key Stage 5 to help them build broader knowledge and skills that are valued in undergraduate study and are relevant for progression to higher education.

Qualification	Specification code	Qualification number	Size	Mandatory units	Optional units	External Assessment (Exam)	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Certificate	H098	TBC	180 GLH	2	0	50%	50%
Extended Certificate	H198	TBC	360 GLH	4	1	40%	60%

Unit number	Unit title	How is it assessed?	Mandatory or optional
F400	Fundamentals of mental health and the individual	External Assessment	Mandatory
F401	Mental health, wellbeing and society	External Assessment	Mandatory
F402	Supporting and promoting mental health and wellbeing in organisations	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F403	Community-based support for mental health and wellbeing	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Mandatory
F404	Supporting mental health and wellbeing with physical activity	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional
F405	Supporting mental health and wellbeing with outdoor and creative activities	Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	Optional

Download the **draft** [specification](#)

Download **draft** [Sample Assessment Materials \(SAMs\)](#)





For more information visit

 ocr.org.uk/cambridge-advanced-nationals

 facebook.com/ocrexams

 twitter.com/ocrexams

 linkedin.com/company/ocr

 youtube.com/ocrexams

Call our customer support centre on

01223 553998

Alternatively, you can email us on

support@ocr.org.uk

Visit our online support centre at

support.ocr.org.uk



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored. ©OCR 2023 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment is committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We're always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, please [contact us](#).