

What can be learnt in a Diploma programme?

> Construction and the Built Environment

The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment is designed by industry to foster the approach to work required by employers in their young recruits. Combining practical skill development with theoretical and technical knowledge, the Diploma will give young people the opportunity to gain real hands-on experience, previously unavailable through traditional education methods, and a better insight into the industry.

A Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment might cover, for example, urban renewal, health and safety issues, house building, construction of roads, railways and utilities, civil engineering, and facilities management.

> Creative and Media

The Diploma in Creative and Media offers an exploration of the creative process in its broadest sense, enabling students to become creative thinkers, effective communicators and flexible enterprising practitioners. Creative practice is central to part of the Creative and Media Diploma, encouraging students to gain the confidence and ability to apply their knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts.

Whether a student aspires to be a fashion designer, creative writer, advertising director or musician, the diploma offers a broad and engaging learning experience, with the opportunities to explore a range of creative and media-related disciplines. These disciplines provide a context for learning, in which broader transferable skills are developed and applied. These are structured around four integrated themes: creativity in context; thinking and working creatively; the principles, process and practices behind the work, and commercial skills for creative business and enterprise.

The Diploma will provide choices for young people who wish to learn more about the creative and media industries, while also exploring creativity and the creative application of skills within a flexible programme that enables them to pursue other areas of interest.

> Society, Health and Development

Achieving a Diploma in Society, Health and Development will help learners progress to a range of occupational and professional higher education programmes of learning, including those in social work, health professions, community justice, teaching and the children's workforce. There will also be further training opportunities, such as apprenticeships and work-based learning.

A Diploma in Society, Health and Development covers topical and current themes, for example, human growth, personal and professional development, health and safety, supporting children and young people's development within and across the diverse sectors of adult social care, community justice and children and young people's field of work and study.

In 2008 the first five Diplomas

> Construction and the Built Environment

> Creative and Media

> Society, Health and Development

> Information Technology

> Engineering

will be available in selected areas of the country.

> Information Technology

Technology is changing forever the way we work and live, and all sectors of the economy have a growing need for people who know how to make the most of technological innovation. The UK's IT industry is growing at five to eight times the national average, and around 150,000 entrants to the IT workforce are required each year.

The Diploma in Information Technology focuses on technology in a business context. At all three levels of the Diploma, learners will explore the potential of technology and its contribution to organisations, individuals and society. They will learn how to deliver successful projects; create technological solutions to meet business requirements; and develop the ability to work effectively in a professional environment.

Learning will be brought to life through up-to-date contexts such as the internet, multi-media solutions, technology in music and technology in sport.

The Diploma in Information Technology has been designed to appeal to young people with many different aspirations, including future IT professionals, business managers and entrepreneurs, and will equip all learners with the skills and capability to thrive in the e-economy.

> Engineering

An Engineering Diploma will give learners a solid foundation in engineering principles and provide them with the thinking and learning skills needed for future employment and self development.

The vast range of careers available through the engineering Diploma is indicated by the diversity of employers involved in designing the qualification. They include Rolls-Royce, Shell UK, Northumbrian Water and Vodafone. The themes that underpin the Diploma studies are mathematics and science, technology, problem solving, communication, creative and innovative thinking, and health and safety. These themes reflect the input and concerns of employers.

A Diploma in Engineering might cover building and maintaining our transport infrastructure; developing medical solutions; ensuring our leisure, living and working environments benefit from safe and efficient heating and air conditioning, electricity and water supplies.

Orhan is studying a Level 3 Engineering Diploma at Upton Robin School. This is his timetable for a week.

Date	Activity/Learning outcomes	Location
Monday 10	World of Engineering introduction – tutorial and debate on the social, economic and political effects of great engineers and their achievements	Upton Robin School
	A level mathematics	Upton Robin School
	Work placement briefing – what you need to know and setting your achievements	Upton Robin School
Tuesday 11	Work experience – mini project developing a more cost-effective part. Working with a team to apply knowledge of materials and manufacture. Planning, problem solving, team work.	Tire's Engineering
	Data gathering exercise on machine down times as part of maintaining engineering systems and products sector of the Diploma.	Tire's Engineering
Wednesday 12	Tutor discussions on ideas for the extended project and innovative design for the enterprise part of the Diploma. Possible extended project subject: green issues and independent living.	Upton Robin School
	Tutorial – Ethics and Engineering – design and development issues	Upton Robin School
Thursday 13	Computer Aided Design course – simulating the behaviour of electronic control circuits and CAD to develop virtual models	Upton Town College
Friday 14	Site visits, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, • Science Museum • a number of employers (for example, Reefs, a facility for producing power from burning waste). 	Vert and Vert Recycle Ltd

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For further information
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www.qca.org.uk/14-19/

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Curriculum Authority



14-19
education
and skills

What is a Diploma?

Improving choice
Improving chances

department for
education and skills

Creating Opportunity
Releasing Potential
Achieving Excellence



Diplomas are new employer-designed qualifications offered at three levels in 14 broad employment sectors.

Completing a Diploma allows students to progress to further study, university or employment.

Diplomas are different – they will give young people a fully rounded education, which combines theoretical and practical learning.

What is a Diploma?

The Diploma uniquely combines essential skills and knowledge, hands-on experience and employer based learning, to prepare a young person for work or further study.

Diplomas will offer a mix of theoretical and practical learning, including functional English, mathematics and ICT and the opportunity to develop a specialism or undertake complementary study.

Components	Characteristics
Principal learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives the industry title of the Diploma • Learning that is related to the sector of the economy • Learning that is designed and endorsed by industry
Core content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes the assessment of Functional Skills in English, mathematics and ICT • Develops a student's employability skills of teamwork and self management • Gives the student the opportunity to produce an extended project • Requires at least 10 days' compulsory work experience
Additional and/or specialist learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for the student to specialise • Allows for the student to choose more qualifications • Allows for flexibility and choice of learning

Why do a Diploma?

Diplomas offer students a fully rounded education to equip them with the skills, knowledge and understanding to go into further or higher education and employment. Today both education and employment need students and employees who have broad skills and knowledge that they are able to apply in a practical way. The Diploma draws on different ways of teaching and different styles of learning so that individuals meet these expectations.

Life's always challenging no matter what age we are, but it's those first steps in to the business world that can be the hardest.

Now we have the opportunity to make things smarter and smoother – the Diplomas contain the knowledge and skills needed for a head start in business life.

Sir Alan Jones
Chairman Emeritus of Toyota Manufacturing UK Ltd and Chairman of SEMTA

What is in the Diploma?

The Diploma is a flexible qualification that combines theoretical and practical learning with 'functional skills' in English, mathematics and ICT. It also provides the opportunity for learners to incorporate other courses of study such as vocational qualifications, GCSEs and A levels.

Diplomas also contain learning in one of 14 employment sectors. Combined with additional or specialist learning this allows students to study a topic in greater depth or to study something new, or complementary.

There is a vital work experience element in Diplomas so that learning through doing is increasingly taken into the workplace. This will help ensure a sound understanding of an area of employment. Learners will have the opportunity to develop personal learning and thinking skills, to develop skills such as team working and the vital communication skills they will need for life and work.

A Diploma project will be available at all three levels, allowing students to develop their ability to learn independently and broaden their sector related understanding by engaging in an investigative piece of work on, for example, environmental, social, economic and political issues.

It is important that there is a range of rigorous learning options for all those young people progressing from school or college to training, higher or further education. GCSEs and A levels offer one route, many Advanced Apprentices go on to higher education and Diplomas will offer another dynamic option.

What will a student do when they have completed a Diploma?

A Diploma prepares students for employment or for training, higher or further education by developing a sound understanding of how a sector works, experience in that sector and its economic importance. It will give students an insight into what occupation, future training or learning they may wish to take up. It will not make them job ready. Apprenticeships and NVQs are available to those individuals who already know what occupation they want to pursue.

Who should do a Diploma?

Diplomas will appeal to students who want to work in different environments by giving them the opportunity to learn in other schools, colleges and work places. Employers will offer students practical work-related learning within industrial standard facilities.

Diplomas are available at three levels. The level 1 Diploma will appeal to students who are working at level 1 of the foundation tier. This includes young people for whom GCSEs may not be appropriate. The level 2 Diploma is designed for those who are expected to get grades from A* to C in their GCSEs.

The level 3 Diploma will appeal to high achievers who need an education programme that nurtures their talents and also offers them the opportunity to develop wider skills for the workplace such as team work, communications and the interpersonal skills that enable all people to achieve in life and work. It will also provide a clear progression route to higher education.

Where will a Diploma be taken?

Diplomas are new qualifications that offer a new way of learning. No one school or college will be able to teach the entire range of available Diplomas. They will be offered by partnerships of schools, colleges and work based learning providers. Students undertaking a Diploma will not spend all of their time sitting at a desk in a classroom. They will take courses at school or college, work with employers and local businesses, take additional courses such as project planning in other settings and undertake an extended project with other learning providers across the employment area covered by their Diploma.

What does the Diploma offer employers?

The Diploma is a employer-designed and supported qualification that will be available as an entitlement in all 14 employment sectors by 2013. Employers will be actively involved in shaping the skills and work experiences of young people. The Diplomas offer a very real chance for employers to contribute to the education of potential employees, making a positive impact on their local community and raising skills in England.

Progression routes

19+	Employment	Higher education		Further education	
16–19	Other work-based learning	Advanced Apprenticeships; Apprenticeships	Level 3 Diploma Level 1 and 2 Diplomas also available	A levels International Baccalaureate	
Functional skills in all learning routes					
14–16	Young Apprenticeships	Level 2 Diploma	GCSEs	Foundation learning tier	Level 1 Diploma
11–14	Key stage 3				

CASE STUDIES

Take two students...

William

Born 14 March 1993 age 14



William wants to work with people and make a real difference to his community. He has undertaken voluntary work over his summer holidays. He is good with people and likes the idea of working in the health service but has no real idea of what job he wants do. William is good at sports and likes school for the social side but he is not sure he just wants to study GCSEs. He is good at science and interested in the effects of medicines and chemicals. His teachers have remarked on William's methodical and accurate approach to the tasks he is given.

William's parents are concerned. They know that he is good at those subjects that interest him, especially science, and they want to know if there are other qualifications that William would be interested in that would also allow him to continue volunteering or playing sports. They want him to gain good English, mathematics and ICT skills and they want to be sure that he is studying something that will give him a career and interest him but that does not close off the option of taking A levels in the future.

What could a level 2 Society, Health and Development Diploma offer William?

The level 2 Society, Health and Development Diploma brings together the areas of adult social care, children and young people, community justice and the health workforce into one qualification. William will learn about communication and partnership working as well as how to safeguard and protect individuals. He will look at antisocial and offending behaviour, how to support children and young people and person-centred support and care for a range of people with multiple needs. In addition, he will be taught vital Functional Skills in English, mathematics and ICT. Given his interest in medicine and social care, William might consider undertaking his work experience in a local hospital. If he added science GCSEs to his learning he could go on to an apprenticeship as a pharmacy technician. This apprenticeship would combine his interest in science and medicine with his interest in people. It would give him the opportunity to pursue a career in the public or retail sector as a dispensing chemist. Alternatively, he might switch back to study science A levels or continue with a Society, Health and Development Diploma at level 3.

Heema

Born 5 October 1991 age 15



Heema thinks she knows what sort of a career she wants. She has always been interested in the way things

are built and has some experience of construction as her father is a civil engineer and her grandfather has his own building firm. She is likely to get good GCSE results. She has talked to her teacher and to her father and thinks she wants to do something that requires managing a building project, but is not sure what.

Heema's father knows that Heema could follow the traditional A level route to university. He has suggested Heema look at a Project Management BA Honours degree, as this is one of the fastest growing professions. However, he feels that Heema would benefit from assuming some real work-based responsibilities. Heema has no experience of working with the wide range of adults that she will encounter in this profession. Together they have been looking into the possibilities, and have found that one or two large firms fund university courses in project management for good students with the right abilities.

What could a Construction and the Built Environment Diploma offer Heema?

If Heema chooses to study a level 3 Construction and the Built Environment Diploma, she will be looking at the design of the built environment, how it is created and its value and use. She will have the options of looking at construction, building services engineering, management of built assets and management of the built environment. She will also have the opportunity to study a complementary A level such as mathematics as part of her coursework. The Diploma ensures that Heema will acquire learning and development skills that include investigation, creative thinking and teamwork. The course will teach Heema self-management and the opportunity to produce an extended project. There is also a requirement for Heema to undertake a work experience placement so that she can develop her critical thinking and team working abilities. The Diploma will give her an understanding of the profession and the flexibility to develop her interpersonal, communication and technical skills, alongside a better technical understanding of her chosen sector and a qualification for university entrance.