



Access 2 Information and Communications Technology — draft Course rationale and summary

August 2011



This edition: August 2011, draft version 1.0

Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ
Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1LE

www.sqa.org.uk

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Course rationale

Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Access 2 Information and Communications Technology Course sits within the technologies curriculum area¹, which relates particularly to contexts that provide learners with opportunities for developing technological skills, knowledge and understanding, and attributes through practical activities. Learners are encouraged to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes, including broadening their understanding of the use of information, communications and technology (ICT), thereby gaining the skills and confidence to embrace and use them.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to develop skills and knowledge which can be applied to other contexts, including computer literacy and recognising the relationship between software, hardware, applications and outputs. Learners will learn how to use a range of technologies appropriately and safely and how to communicate effectively and appropriately.

Course activities also provide opportunities for learners to enhance generic and transferable skills in planning, working independently and in teams, and communication, all in a technological context. They will find that the skills they acquire by successfully completing this Course will be invaluable for learning, for life and for work.

This Course builds on the experiences and outcomes in technologies and includes skills that are complementary for learners in other curriculum areas, such as mathematics, science, and the expressive arts.

¹ Technologies:

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/technologies/principlesandpractice/index.asp>

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides an introduction to the role of technology in society, and focuses on the development of a range of skills required for using technology in everyday life. It seeks to foster learners' understanding of information, communication and technology, helping them to develop skills in using hardware, software, applications, media and technology.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to develop practical skills in:

- ◆ developing and applying knowledge and understanding across a range of technologies
- ◆ using equipment, hardware and software appropriately and safely
- ◆ using a range of computing applications
- ◆ communicating effectively

Course activities also provide opportunities for learners to develop generic and transferable skills in: computer literacy; collaborating and interacting with others; working independently; searching and retrieving information to inform thinking and decision making; and problem solving.

The Course will also help learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes that are transferable to other contexts.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

The Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in information, communication and technology. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject and for those wanting to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course may also be suitable for those wishing to study information, communication and technology for the first time.

The Course takes account of the needs of all learners by providing sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed computer literacy, developed skills and knowledge in using a range of technologies, and be able to apply these skills and knowledge to other contexts.

On successful completion of this Course, the learner could progress to:

- ◆ other Units, Awards and Courses at Access 2
- ◆ Access 3 Computing and Information Science Course

Course summary

Course title: Access 2 Information and Communications Technology

SCQF level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Computer Applications (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Optional Units (two from the following)

Communications Applications (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Internet Applications (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Multimedia Applications (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Working with Digital Images (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

To provide flexibility of choice and opportunities for lateral progression, the Course comprises **one** mandatory Unit and **two** optional Units from the list above.

Course structure and conditions of award

This Course consists of a combination of mandatory and optional Units. Learners who complete the mandatory Unit and any two of the optional Units will be able to demonstrate their ability in the same skills. The mandatory Unit provides breadth by introducing learners to the range of skills and contexts available in information, communication and technology. The optional Units provide depth, with scope for personalisation and choice, and provide learners with opportunities to further explore, develop and practice these skills in different contexts.

Some learners may choose to complete additional optional Units from the Course. Learners will benefit from this opportunity to extend their learning.

The Course enables learners to develop practical skills in: developing and applying knowledge and understanding across a range of technologies; using equipment, hardware and software appropriately and safely; using a range of computing applications; and communicating effectively.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a variety of ways.

Units can be taught sequentially or in parallel to each other. However, learning and teaching approaches should provide opportunities to integrate skills where possible.

Computer Applications (Access 2)

The aim of this Unit is to allow learners to develop skills in using a range of commonly available computer applications. Learners will apply these skills to access, use and exit the applications.

Communications Applications (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will become familiar with the use of a range of applications for communication (which can include gaming, texting, or using electronic devices). The Unit will also provide opportunities for collaborative working.

Internet Applications (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will become familiar with the use of the internet for simple research, the use of technologies to send and receive messages, and the importance of safety considerations when using these tools.

Multimedia Applications (Access 2)

This Unit is designed to help learners become familiar with the hardware components and software applications that might be used to prepare a multimedia presentation. Learners will also develop the basic skills required to produce a multimedia presentation.

Working with Digital Images (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will develop skills in using digital technologies to manipulate, edit and publish digital images, including the use of software packages and media.

To achieve the Access 2 Information and Communications Technology Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 2 Courses are not graded.

Assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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