



Level 3

APPROVAL CRITERIA

# Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts

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This is a **Regulatory Document** under **Condition B7** of the *Standard Conditions of Recognition (October 2018)*<sup>1</sup>: *Compliance with Regulatory Documents*.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/publications/standard-conditions-of-recognition/>

## Introduction

This document sets out the approval criteria for the Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts and the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualification. These have been developed through stakeholder engagement, which included focus groups and online surveys. These approval criteria include the requirements that an awarding body must meet when developing the specification and assessment materials for the Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications.

These qualifications should be designed to be delivered by a range of learning providers, including schools and further education for learners aged 16 years and over.

Where appropriate, the qualifications should allow learners to develop transferable skills, including communication, literacy, digital competence and numeracy.

The approval criteria in this document will come into effect from August 2019 and will be reviewed in 2022.

In March 2017, Qualifications Wales published a determination to restrict a new suite of qualifications in Health and Social Care, and Childcare<sup>2</sup> for teaching on publicly-funded programmes of learning in Wales. This suite includes the Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications. These qualifications are designed to support progression onto further and higher level study or training.

All of the qualifications in the suite will be restricted to just one form per qualification for a period of five years. For this qualification, the period commences on 1 September 2020. This means that only one awarding body may award each qualification. Following a fair and transparent procurement process that took place between January 2017 and August 2017, Qualifications Wales has contracted with a consortium of City & Guilds of London Institute and WJEC to jointly develop and deliver all of the qualifications in the suite.

Qualifications Wales will only approve a qualification that meets all of the requirements set out in this document together with those set out in the *Standard Conditions of Recognition*<sup>3</sup>. In developing qualifications to meet these requirements awarding bodies must have regard to *Fair Access by Design*<sup>4</sup>. The commissioned

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<sup>2</sup> <http://qualificationswales.org/media/2535/230517-determination-to-restrict-hsc-final-e.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://qualifications.wales/english/our-work/regulating-awarding-bodies/monitoring-awarding-bodies/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150727-fair-access-by-design-en.pdf>

awarding body must also meet all of the requirements set out in the concession contract awarded during the qualification development, approval, implementation and delivery stages.

Where the requirements of the Subject Approval Criteria set out in this document differ from those prescribed in the *Standard Conditions of Recognition*, the requirements in this document will take precedence.

### **Qualification structure**

1. The qualification title appearing on certificates, depending on the size of the qualification completed by the learner, must be:

**Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts;**

**Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts.**

2. The Level 3 in Certificate Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specification must:
  - 2.1 offer learners the certification of a qualification of 360 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and will need to be defined in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT) and credit;
  - 2.2 comprise mandatory units only (Group A, see Appendix A).
3. The Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specification must:
  - 3.1 offer learners the certification of a qualification of 720 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and will need to be defined in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT) and credit;
  - 3.2 comprise mandatory units (Group A and B) (see Appendix A);
4. The design of Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications must ensure that:
  - 4.1 the subject aims and objectives are reflected in the assessments to enable learners to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding;
  - 4.2 it supports learners' progression from Level 2 Health and Social Care qualifications.

5. The Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts must include mandatory sector engagement for a minimum of 100 hours, which must include 60 hours of work placement. The specification must provide details of the minimum requirements for sector engagement activities. Centres must be encouraged to ensure that, where possible, learners experience a minimum of two settings during the sector engagement.
6. The Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specifications must include the following statement:

*The knowledge, understanding and skills a learner is required to achieve within this qualification build on the content of the Health and Social Care: Core qualification. It is strongly recommended that a learner undertaking this qualification has completed or is currently undertaking the Health and Social Care: Core qualification. Please note that it is a requirement of Social Care Wales that an individual working within the Social Care sector will need the Health and Social Care: Core qualification to work within specific job roles. For more information on requirements to work within the Social sector, please refer to Social Care Wales' website.*

### **Subject aims and objectives**

7. Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications must enable learners to develop and demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding within the context of health and social care services. In particular, learners should be able to demonstrate that they:
  - 7.1 understand the principles and values which underpin health and social care practice and apply them to a range of health and social care contexts;
  - 7.2 understand and reflect on the ways in which individuals' unique needs can be identified and responded to;
  - 7.3 understand ways in which effective, person-centred practice and wellbeing within health and social care can be promoted and supported;
  - 7.4 analyse, interpret and evaluate theories in health and social care and reflect on how they could influence practice;
  - 7.5 are aware of changing sector policy and how these changes affect service development and delivery;

- 7.6 use literacy, numeracy, digital competency and research skills as appropriate within their study.

### **Subject content**

8. The content of the Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specifications must reflect the subject aims and objectives.
9. The Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specifications must include:
- all content (Group A and Group B) specified in Appendix A;

### **Scheme of assessment**

10. Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications will be assessed through 50% internal assessment and 50% external assessment.
11. The Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts will assess content from Group A (see Appendix A) through an internally assessed task and an externally assessed examination.
12. The Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts will:
- 12.1 assess content from Group A and Group B (see Appendix A) through an internally assessed task and an externally assessed examination;
  - 12.2 be of comparable demand for all learners, irrespective of the assessment undertaken.
  - 12.3 include the assessment of the knowledge and understanding a learner has gained through the mandatory sector engagement (minimum 100 hours, which must include 60 hours work placement)
13. Question types, where applicable, must provide learners with the opportunity to provide a mixture of short and extended responses.
14. Mark schemes must indicate how each assessment question or task relates to the assessment objectives.
15. The Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specification must include details of assessment opportunities, including re-sits.

### Assessment objectives

16. The assessment of the knowledge, skills and understanding required in the specification must target the following assessment objectives in line with the indicated weightings:

Objective	Requirements	Weightings
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of key concepts, values and issues that are relevant to health and social care.	Minimum 20%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of health and social care principles and contexts.	Minimum 20%
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse and evaluate health and social care theories and practice to demonstrate understanding, reflect on how they can influence practice, making reasoned judgements and drawing conclusions.	Minimum 25%

**Table 1.**

*Rationale required: on submitting the specification for approval, the awarding body will be required to provide a rationale as to how the final weightings of the assessment objectives have been determined, including whether they will be fixed across the lifetime of the qualification or vary by series.*

### Outcomes

17. Learners who successfully complete all required assessments will be certificated (meeting any rules of combination). Learners' attainment will be differentiated in:

- 17.1 the Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts through an A\* - E grading scale;
- 17.2 the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts through an 11-point grading scale of A\*A\* - EE.

### **Submitting qualifications for approval**

18. When submitting a qualification to Qualifications Wales for approval, the awarding body must provide:
  - 18.1 a specification document;
  - 18.2 sample assessment materials;
  - 18.3 an explanatory document (rationale document) outlining the rationale for the key design features of the proposed qualification and their alignment to findings of *The Sector Review of Qualifications and the Qualification System in Health and Social Care, including childcare and play work*<sup>5</sup>.

### **Rationale Requirements**

19. The purpose of the rationale document is to support the qualification review and approval process and is not intended for publication.
20. The rationale document must include an explanation for:
  - 20.1 the qualification structure, explaining the reasons for the way in which the content has been structured;
  - 20.2 content coverage over time for internal and external assessments;
  - 20.3 the approach to how tasks are developed and refreshed over time;
  - 20.4 the assessment structure, including where appropriate, the number, weighting, mark allocation and duration of assessments;
  - 20.5 the interpretation of the assessment objectives, and how they apply to the different components of assessment;
  - 20.6 the design and application of marking criteria;
  - 20.7 how the qualification reflects a Welsh context;
  - 20.8 the process for setting and maintaining standards in the qualification;
  - 20.9 the process used to award the qualification, including a rationale for the proposed grade boundaries at assessment and qualification level.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://qualifications.wales/english/qualifications/vocational-qualifications/sector-reviews/health-social-care-and-childcare/>



### **Operational requirements**

21. The specification and/or supporting information must specify the knowledge and competence requirements (both subject and assessment/quality assurance) for assessors, internal quality assurers and external quality assurers.
22. The qualification specification must include explicit details of operational requirements, including:
  - 22.1 entries;
  - 22.2 quality assurance;
  - 22.3 external assessment processes.

**Further  
information**

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## Appendix A – Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts

The Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts specification must include the following content. This makes up 100% of the total content of the qualification.

### Group A: Mandatory content

The following content will form the mandatory content of both the Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts and the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications.

Topic Area	
<p>1. Principles of care and safe practice within outcome focused person-centred care.</p>	<p>1.1 Professional responsibilities, roles and accountabilities of health and social care workers.</p> <p>1.2 Legislation, National Policies, Code of Conduct and Professional practice and how these impact on outcome focused provision in Wales and the UK.</p> <p>1.3 Ethical issues and approaches when providing outcome focused care.</p> <p>1.4 The importance of developing positive relationships, trust and effective communication with individuals.</p> <p>1.5 How to promote quality care that is outcome focused.</p>
<p>2. Factors affecting individuals growth and development across the lifespan and how this impacts on outcomes, care and support needs</p>	<p>2.1 Factors affecting human growth and development across the lifespan.</p> <p>2.2 Models that relate to factors that affect growth and development across the lifespan.</p> <p>2.3 Health and social care provision for individuals in Wales to support growth and development.</p> <p>2.4 Comparing how individuals and the nation monitor health and well-being.</p> <p>2.5 Approaches to promoting and protecting health, well-being and resilience.</p>

Topic Area	
3. Promoting the rights of individuals across the lifespan.	3.1 The rights of individuals. 3.2 Strategies and approaches for promoting and protecting the rights of individuals to improve health and well-being. 3.3 Role of employers in promoting and protecting the rights of individuals. 3.4 Barriers to participation, challenging inequality and promoting the rights of individuals.

### Group B: Content (Diploma only)

The following content will form the content of the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualification and will be undertaken in addition to the mandatory content in Group A.

Topic Areas	
4. Understanding how the human body is affected by common conditions.	4.1 Types and causes of infection, ways infections are transmitted and resulting conditions. 4.2 The causes and effects of a range of physiological conditions. 4.3 How the human body is affected by common conditions. 4.4 Care and support when living with physiological conditions and challenges. 4.5 Risk reduction strategies that can be implemented to support health and well-being.

Topic Areas	
<p>5. Supporting individuals who are at risk to achieve their desired outcomes</p>	<p>5.1 Factors that could contribute to individuals being at risk to abuse and neglect.</p> <p>5.2 Factors that can affect the rights of individuals at risk in health and social care.</p> <p>5.3 The requirements of legislation, regulation and codes of practice for safeguarding and protecting individuals at risk in Wales and the U</p> <p>5.4 Approaches to securing the rights of individuals at risk in health and social care.</p> <p>5.5 The ways in which individual workers and the services they provide can promote inclusion.</p>
<p>6. Working in the health and social care sector <i>(placement)</i></p>	<p>6.1 Job roles, qualifications and skills needed by health and social care workers.</p> <p>6.2 The role of effective communication, co-production, collaboration, teamwork and professionalism in the care sector.</p> <p>6.3 How codes of conduct/practice are adhered to and applied in health and social care settings.</p> <p>6.4 Safeguarding in practice.</p> <p>6.5 How approaches in settings are used to meet individuals' needs and requirements.</p> <p>6.6 How Welsh legislation impacts practice in health and social care settings.</p> <p>6.7 Role of reflection in care settings.</p>