



Ascentis Level 1 Award in Citizenship Specification

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ABOUT ASCENTIS

Ascentis was originally established in 1975 as OCNW, a co-operative scheme between Universities and Colleges of Further Education. Ascentis was the first 'Open College' in the UK and served the needs of its members for over 34 years. Throughout this period, OCNW grew yet maintained its independence in order that it could continue to respond to the requirements of its customers and provide a consistently high standard of service to all centres across the country and in recent years to its increasing cohorts of overseas learners.

In 2009 OCNW became Ascentis - a company limited by guarantee and a registered educational charity.

Ascentis is distinctive and unusual in that it is both:

- **An Awarding Organisation** regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)

and

- **an Access Validating Agency (AVA)** for 'Access to HE Programmes' licensed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

Ascentis is therefore able to offer a comprehensive ladder of opportunities to centres and their students, including Foundation Learning, vocational programmes and progressing to QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications. The flexible and adult-friendly ethos of Ascentis has resulted in centres throughout the UK choosing to run its qualifications.

ASCENTIS CONTACT DETAILS

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ASCENTIS LEVEL 1 AWARD IN CITIZENSHIP

Introduction

The Ascentis Level 1 Award in Citizenship introduces learners to the democratic process in the UK. It considers the national decision-making processes and it shows how learners can become involved as citizens. Learners will identify how politics leads and influences parts of the economy, and the interdependencies of taxation and state provided services. The final part of the unit covers legal responsibilities, including the safeguarding of human rights, law administration and enforcement.

There are several features of this qualification that make it very appropriate for its target learners

- Assessment and certification can be offered throughout the year, allowing maximum flexibility for centres
- Can be delivered either as a classroom based course or as a blended learning programme
- Assessment is by a multi choice test, offered on screen or paper based. This will normally be taken at the end of the course
- There are online resources that can be used alongside the teaching

Aims

The aims of the qualification are to enable learners:

- 1 To understand the political systems in the UK
- 2 To understand the role of the Government in public spending
- 3 To understand the justice system

Target Group

The qualification is aimed at a range of learners, including

- Young people wishing to pick up an award as part of another learning programme
- Young people aged 14 – 19 who are in various learning environments

Ofqual Qualification Number: 603/2664/5

Award of the Qualification

Learners must complete one unit for the Award in Citizenship.

Ascentis Level 1 Award in Citizenship				
Title	Level	Credit Value	TQT	Unit ref
Citizenship	Level 1	2	21	Y/616/7316

Recommended Guided Learning Hours

The recommended guided learning hours for this qualification is 20 GLH.

Total Qualification Time

The total qualification time for this qualification is 21 hours.

Recommended Prior Knowledge, Attainment and/or Experience

No recommended prior learning or experience is required.

Age Range of Qualification

This qualification is suitable for young people aged 14-19 and adult learners.

Opportunities for Progression

The qualification gives the learner an introduction to Citizenship which can be applied in a wide variety of contexts. Learners may use the qualification as a stand-alone course or as part of a longer vocational or academic programme of study. Learners may also use the qualification as an element of their continuing professional development.

Resources to Support the Delivery of the Qualification

There are online resources available to download to support this qualification.

Centre Recognition

This qualification can only be offered by centres recognised by Ascentis and approved to run this qualification. Details of the centre recognition and qualification approval process are available from the Ascentis office (tel. 01524 845046) or from the website at www.ascentis.co.uk.

Qualification Approval

If your centre is already a recognised centre, you will need to complete and submit a qualification approval form to deliver this qualification. Details of the qualification approval process are available from the Ascentis office (tel. 01524 845046) or from the website at www.ascentis.co.uk.

Registration

All learners must normally be registered within 15 working days of the intended test date for paper based assessment and 5 working days for e-assessment.

Registration is via the Ascentis electronic registration portal.

Re-sits

Learners can re-sit the assessment if they do not achieve a pass but should have sufficient time for additional learning. Re-sits for e-assessment are free of charge, but please refer to the pricing structure for re-sits of the paper based tests.

Status in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

This qualification is available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is only offered in English. If a centre based overseas (including Northern Ireland and Scotland) would like to offer this qualification, they should make an enquiry to Ascentis.

Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

In the development of this qualification Ascentis has made every attempt to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to achievement. For learners with particular requirements reasonable adjustments may be made in order that they can have fair assessment and demonstrate attainment. There are also arrangements for special consideration for any learner suffering illness, injury or indisposition. Full details of the reasonable adjustments and special considerations are available from the Resources/Key Documents area of the Ascentis website www.ascentis.co.uk or through contacting the Ascentis office.

Enquiries and Appeals Procedure

Ascentis has an appeals procedure in accordance with the regulatory arrangements in the Ofqual *General Conditions of Recognition*¹. Full details of this procedure, including how to make an application, are available from the Resources/Key Documents area of the Ascentis website www.ascentis.co.uk or through contacting the Ascentis office.

¹ The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has developed some high level principles that cover the same requirements as the Ofqual Conditions. These are the SQA Accreditation's Regulatory Principles (2014).

ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

Overview

To gain the Level 1 Award in Citizenship all learning outcomes and assessment criteria within the unit must be successfully achieved. The full award consists of one unit.

External Assessment

This qualification is assessed through the completion of an Ascentis devised multiple choice test that is carried out at the completion of the course, available as a paper based test or e-assessment.

The grading of this qualification is pass or did not achieve

Conduct of Assessment

The assessment is through a 40-minute test paper or e-assessment consisting of 20 multiple-choice questions.

Full details of candidate, Examinations Officer and invigilator instructions are available from the Resources/ Key Documents area of the Ascentis website www.ascentis.co.uk or through contacting the Ascentis office.

Note: Dictionaries cannot be used during the assessment.

Quality Assurance Arrangements

As part of ongoing quality assurance arrangements, Ascentis will carry out quality visits to recognised centres using a risk based approach. The focus of quality visits will normally be

- Review of resources; both physical and staffing
- Observation of assessment practice
- Staff development, if required

Further details will be provided prior to a visit taking place.

Ascentis reserve the right to carry out inspections of assessments taking place without prior notice.

The delivery of the knowledge required within this qualification should be carried out by qualified teachers or those working towards a teaching qualification. Delivery staff should also have a theoretical understanding of IT User Skills.

Results

Provisional results are provided immediately after e-assessment. An hour after the e-assessment the e-assessment achievement list report can be run through QuartzWeb

Knowledge, Understanding and Skills required of Assessors and Internal Verifiers

Centres must ensure that those delivering and assessing Ascentis qualifications are occupationally knowledgeable and competent within the relevant subject area.

Centres are responsible for ensuring that all staff involved in the delivery of the qualification are appropriately qualified. Ascentis will not be held responsible for any issues that relate to centre staffing which could impact on the successful delivery, assessment and internal quality assurance of our qualifications.

Those delivering the qualification should preferably hold or be working towards a recognised teaching qualification. Assessors must be able to make appropriate assessment decisions. Internal Quality Assurers need to have knowledge and experience of the internal quality assurance processes.

Centres are required to ensure that appropriate training and support is in place for staff involved in the delivery, assessment and internal verification of Ascentis qualifications.

Ascentis offers free support for centres. Further information on the support that is available can be found on Quartz Web or the Ascentis website.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Citizenship

Credit Value of Unit 2

GLH of Unit 20

Level of Unit 1

Introduction

This unit introduces learners to the democratic process in the UK. It considers the national decision-making processes and it shows how learners can become involved as citizens. Learners will identify how politics leads and influences parts of the economy, and the interdependencies of taxation and state provided services. The final part of the unit covers legal responsibilities, including the safeguarding of human rights, law administration and enforcement

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1. Understand the political system in the UK and the contribution and influence of its citizens	1.1 Recognise how democracy is organised in the UK
	1.2 Recognise how the Government runs the country and is held to account
	1.3 Recognise the national election systems and how people can bring about change
2. Understand the role of the Government and the House of Commons in taxation and in spending public money	2.1 Identify how the government raises money through direct and indirect taxes
	2.2 Recognise the need to balance spending and how spending is controlled
3. Understand that the citizen has a key role to play in the justice system	3.1 Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the UK law
	3.2 Recognise the need for laws, the structure of the justice system and how it is enforced in England and Wales

Indicative Content

Understand the political system in the UK

Organisation of democracy – definitions of democracy; direct and representative democracy; parliamentary democracy; duties of monarch; devolved bodies and their powers, in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; British constitution;

Held to account - Parliament, members of parliament, opposition, backbenchers, select committees, contacting your MP

Government - duties of Prime Minister, cabinet, ministers; departments;

The election systems – major political parties contesting general elections and their main philosophies; ‘First past the post’; proportional representation; advantages and disadvantages; eligibility to vote

How individuals can bring about change – participation in elections; participating in pressure groups, trade unions, lobbyists, charities; advocacy; petitions; demonstrating; volunteering;

Understand the role of the House of Commons in taxation and spending

Taxation – income tax; personal allowance, standard rate, higher rate, additional rate; national insurance; corporate tax; indirect tax - value added tax (VAT), local government revenue

Spending – role of Chancellor of the Exchequer; the budget; inflation; allocation of public funds

Control of spending – House of Commons; passage of budget; Public Accounts committee

Understand that the citizen has a key role to play in the justice system

Rights and responsibilities – definitions of rights and responsibilities; legal rights and sources of law - UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the European Convention on Human Rights; the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Human Rights Act (1998); UK citizens' rights and responsibilities

Citizens – responsibilities; roles as juror, magistrate, witness, victim of crime, special constable, police commissioner; support available

Need for laws – behaviour; protection, order;

Structure – Crown Prosecution Service; courts; magistrates; jury; roles of jury, judges, magistrates; magistrates court; sentencing; appeals

Law enforcement – roles, rights and responsibilities of police, citizens; working as a special constable.

APPENDIX 1

Sample Assessment Questions

1. What is the meaning of democracy?
 - a) **Citizens elect their government**
 - b) Citizens are told who to elect
 - c) Being ruled by the Queen
 - d) Being ruled by the Government

2. In a democracy who can the public vote for to represent them?
 - a) The Queen
 - b) The Prime Minister
 - c) Member of the House of Lords
 - d) **Member of the House of Commons**

3. Who is the Head of Government in the United Kingdom?
 - a) The Queen
 - b) **The Prime Minister**
 - c) The Lord Chancellor
 - d) The Home Secretary

4. In a democracy what can the public do if they are dissatisfied with the Government and want to create change?
 - a) **Sign an online petition**
 - b) Criticize on social media
 - c) Refuse to pay national insurance
 - d) Reuse to pay their council tax

5. What type of taxation does the Government obtain revenue from the sale of goods?
 - a) National Insurance
 - b) Corporation tax
 - c) **Value Added Tax**
 - d) Council tax

6. What is the role of the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
 - a) To set the local budget
 - b) **To set the national budget**
 - c) To control immigration
 - d) To manage the police

7. Citizens are summoned to hear criminal cases in the United Kingdom justice system. What are they called?
- a) Judge
 - b) Magistrate
 - c) Juror**
 - d) Special constable
8. Which of these is a voluntary role a citizen can volunteer to undertake in the criminal justice system?
- a) Judge
 - b) Special Constable**
 - c) Police Constable
 - d) Police Inspector
9. Which criminal court hears cases first?
- a) The Crown Court
 - b) The Crown Prosecution Service
 - c) The Magistrates Court**
 - d) The Police service
10. When can a police officer arrest a citizen?
- a) If the citizen has a criminal record
 - b) If the citizen is aged 18 or over
 - c) If they believe a person could have committed a crime
 - d) If there is evidence a crime has been committed**