



Qualifications and  
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



*Rewarding Learning*

# GCSE subject criteria for hospitality and/or catering

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December 2007

QCA/07/3456

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# Contents

Introduction.....	3
Aims and learning outcomes .....	3
Subject content .....	4
Assessment objectives .....	5
Scheme of assessment .....	6
Grade descriptions.....	6

## Introduction

1. GCSE subject criteria set out the knowledge, understanding, skills and assessment objectives common to all GCSE specifications in hospitality, catering and hospitality and catering. They provide the framework within which an awarding body creates the detail of the specification.
2. Specifications must also meet the regulators' general requirements, including the common and GCSE criteria as defined in *The statutory regulation of external qualifications* (QCA/04/1293).
3. Subject criteria are intended to:
  - help ensure consistent and comparable standards in the same subject across the awarding bodies
  - ensure that the rigour of GCSE is maintained
  - ensure that specifications build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established by the national curricula for England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and facilitate progression to higher level general or vocational qualifications in hospitality, catering or related sectors of employment and training
  - help higher education institutions, employers and other stakeholders such as learners and parents/guardians know what has been studied and assessed.
4. Specifications may be offered under the following titles:
  - GCSE in hospitality
  - GCSE in catering
  - GCSE in hospitality and catering
5. Any GCSE specification that contains significant elements of hospitality and/or catering must be consistent with the relevant parts of these subject criteria.

## Aims and learning outcomes

6. GCSE specifications in hospitality and/or catering should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile

course of study and gain an insight into related sectors. They should prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

7. GCSE specifications in hospitality and/or catering must enable learners to:
  - actively engage in the processes of hospitality and/or catering to develop as effective and independent learners.
  - develop an awareness of the structure and diversity of the industry, and its contribution to society and the economy
  - develop an awareness and appreciation of commercial and industry issues
  - apply knowledge and understanding of the industry within a range of contexts
  - develop and use a range of transferable skills through learning to use resources, workplace systems, procedures and practices used in the industry to enable them to become effective and independent learners
  - develop an awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainability.

## **Subject content**

8. The content of GCSE specifications in hospitality and catering must reflect the learning outcomes.
9. GCSE specifications in hospitality and/or catering must require learners to demonstrate, as appropriate to the title, knowledge and understanding of:
  - the industry: accommodation; food and beverage; and front of house
  - the types of products and services provided
  - a range of customer groups
  - job roles, career opportunities and relevant training
  - appropriate forms of communication within the industry
  - the importance of record keeping
  - the range of equipment used in the hospitality and catering industry

- customer care standards and procedures
  - basic nutrition and diet
  - food preparation
  - health and safety at work
  - environmental issues and sustainability.
10. GCSE specifications in hospitality and/or catering must require learners to do the following across a range of contexts:
- respond to customer enquiries
  - deal with customer complaints
  - select and use appropriate forms of communication
  - plan, prepare and serve food and beverages
  - select and use appropriate equipment and materials
  - apply the basic principles of costing and budgeting
  - apply health and safety standards and procedures.
11. GCSE specifications in hospitality and/or catering must require learners to plan and carry out investigations and tasks in which they:
- analyse issues and problems
  - identify, gather and record relevant information and evidence
  - analyse and evaluate evidence
  - make reasoned judgements and present conclusions.

## **Assessment objectives**

12. The specification must require candidates to demonstrate the assessment objectives in an applied context.

13. All specifications must require candidates to demonstrate their ability to:

<b>Assessment objectives</b>		<b>% weighting</b>
AO1	Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of a range of contexts	25–35
AO2	Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks	40–50
AO3	Analyse and evaluate information, sources and evidence, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions	20–30

## **Scheme of assessment**

14. GCSE specifications in hospitality and catering must allocate a weighting of 40% to external assessment and a weighting of 60% to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.

15. Question papers must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

## **Grade descriptions**

To be added later