



MCAST

MQF Introductory Level A

EPA-01-21

Award in Vocational Skills

Course Specification

Course Description

The Award in Vocational Skills supports students with learning disabilities / learning difficulties to acquire the skills required to gain and maintain employment or to further their education. Students are trained in one of the following vocational areas: Hospitality and Retail, Office and Digital Skills. They are also assessed in Key Skills which include Maltese, English, Mathematics, PSHE, IT, Creative Self-Expression and Daily Living and Community Skills. A work placement experience within the College is also provided according to the vocational area being studied. Before enrolling in the programme, students are required to attend a three-day evaluation period to assess the suitability of the course and identify the vocational area according to their abilities.

Programme Learning Outcomes

At the end of the programme the learner will be able to:

1. *Have a basic knowledge of a vocational area from (i) Hospitality and Retail and (ii) Office and Digital Skills;*
2. *Become familiar with employment and related basic responsibilities;*
3. *Be prepared for independent living through development of key skills, life skills and employability;*
4. *Function in society and familiarise themselves with the place of work.*

Entry Requirements

- Finished Compulsory Education.

Other entry requirements:

- Provision of documents including School Leaving Certificate.
- A recent psychological report (issued no more than 3 years before date of application) and school reports including last Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Adaptation to both class-based and community-based learning to be ascertained through a 3 day workshop at MCAST, attendance for which is compulsory.
- Commitment to prospective employment.

Applicants are asked to sit for an interview and attend 3-day assessments and workshops.

Approved Programme Structure

Unit Code	Unit Title	ECVET
CDPKS-A03-2101	Mathematics	3
CDPKS-A03-2102	English	3
CDPKS-A03-2103	Malti	3
CDPKS-A03-2104	I.T.	3
CDPKS-A03-2105	Daily Living and Community Skills	3
CDPKS-A03-2106	Personal, Social and Health Education	3
CDPWV-A03-2101	Customer Care and Employability Skills	3
CDCSE-A03-2001	Creative Self expression	3
To choose ONE Strand from the below:		
Strand 1 - Introduction to Retail and Hospitality		
CDPWR-A03-2101	Retail	3
CDPWH-A03-2101	Hospitality	3
Strand 2 - Introduction to Office and Digital Skills		
CDPWO-A03-2101	Office	3
CDPWD-A03-2101	Digital Skills	3
Total Credits		30

CDPKS-A03-2101 Mathematics

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The unit begins with a basic introduction to the identification, use and simple manipulation of numbers. Through the unit the learners will apply basic mathematical concepts. The initial topics will work as a scaffolding to the application of the use of numbers in everyday life situations.

The learners will move on to learning about the basic principles when using mathematical data and so learn to identify data from simple tables, charts, lists and pictures. In addition to this, learners will also become familiar with good time management and money handling.

As a final step towards completing this unit, learners will learn the different shapes and their forms in preparation for application of shapes to every day familiar contexts.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Identify a range of numbers in their different forms.*
- 2. Interpret and handle simple data using numbers and pictures.*
- 3. Demonstrate the meaning and use of money in various situations.*
- 4. Use analogue and digital time in every day contexts and situations.*

CDPKS-A03-2102 English

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

In this unit learners will be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to use and apply English in everyday life. Gaining these skills will ensure that the learners will be able to get the most out of their future work and education.

This unit covers basic skills required such as reading, writing, listening and speaking with the varying degrees of support. The topics and texts presented will enable learners to foster the language learning process and focus on themes of functional English pertaining to everyday life and the workplace.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Recognise given letters and symbols correctly with varying degrees of support.*
- 2. Identify the purpose of a short text on a familiar topic with varying degrees of support.*
- 3. Produce a simple text and a completed form.*
- 4. Collect information from simple verbal communication.*
- 5. Participate in simple exchanges about familiar topics with another person in a familiar situation.*

CDPKS-A03-2103 Malti

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Id-Deskrizzjoni tal-Unità

F'din l-unità introduttorja ta' livell A, il-Malti jintgħallem biex l-istudenti jkunu kapaċi jesprimu ħsibijiethom u xewqathom bil-fomm u bil-kitba filwaqt li jkunu kapaċi jaqraw kliem sempliċi marbut mal-ħajja ta' kuljum u l-aspett vokazzjonali.

Din l-unità ser tgħin ukoll lill-istudenti biex jikkomunikaw u jirrelataw man-nies ta' madwarhom fil-ħajja ta' kuljum u fuq il-post tax-xogħol bl-għajjnuna meħtieġa.

Il-Kisbiet mit-Tagħlim

1. *Ifhem punti qosra dwar diskors relatat mal-ħajja ta' kuljum bl-għajjnuna mogħtija.*
2. *Ikkomunika ma' persuni oħra b'Malti bażiku u korrett, bl-għajjnuna mogħtija.*
3. *Ifhem istruzzjonijiet qosra u sempliċi dwar ħwejjeġ ta' kuljum bl-għajjnuna mogħtija.*
4. *Ikteb sentenzi sempliċi b'Malti korrett, skont ir-regoli tal-ortografija u s-sintassi, bl-għajjnuna mogħtija.*

CDPKS-A03-2104 I.T.

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Using IT has become an integral part of the vocational sector and is integrated in many work processes.

Moreover, everyday communication and learning processes use IT very frequently. In order to ensure that students can participate in everyday life and be active participants in the job market, this unit deals with handling very basic IT requirements and skills.

In this unit, students will learn how to access a device and use basic controls, distinguish between hardware and software and their use in IT, online safety, procedures in working with files and folders, the main search tools for searching information on the internet, how to present personal information and how to send and receive information using emails..

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Demonstrate how to access a device and use basic controls.*
- 2. Distinguish between software and hardware.*
- 3. Identify how to work safely and responsibly online.*
- 4. Identify basic file management procedures.*
- 5. Demonstrate how to search for and use internet-based information.*
- 6. Explore basic functions of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.*
- 7. Use a digital device to communicate and exchange information.*

CDPKS-A03-2105 Daily Living and Community Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

This unit is designed to develop some of the basic skills needed to look after oneself and one's home, as well as some of the knowledge and skills needed to operate within a community.

The individual needs of learners are numerous and diverse. In order to address this, this unit is designed to cover a range of areas and is divided into 4 topics:

- Basic Health & Hygiene (e.g. basic personal hygiene and health care)
- Basic Skills in the Home (e.g. basic laundry, food preparation, housecleaning)
- Basic Skills in the Community (e.g. basic money handling, road safety and transportation)

Basic Civic Engagement and Leisure Activities (e.g. conscientious community action, hobbies, group activities, using media for entertainment and information)

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

1. *Recognize the need for personal hygiene and what to do in the case of illness or injury.*
2. *Practice basic home management skills.*
3. *Identify community facilities and services as well as safe participation and travel.*
4. *Explore ways to increase civic engagement and leisure development.*

CDPKS-A03-2106 Personal, Social and Health Education

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Research shows that PSHE education helps learners to develop skills and aptitudes - like teamwork, communication, and resilience which are crucial to navigating the challenges and opportunities of the modern world, and are increasingly valued by employers.

Apart from a vocational training focus, this programme also offers a framework for the development and refinement of life skills. An in-depth involvement in the topic Personal, Social and Health Educational is a fundamental prerequisite for an independent, self-fulfilling life and is considered an important condition for the successful integration of the personal life with the world of work.

Personal and social development provides skills which will enable learners to participate fully in the worlds that surrounds them. Once learners acquired various self-independent skills in the class setting they can demonstrate them in a real life situation. Therefore, the unit involves a wide repertoire of active learning and experiential strategies which will put the learner's experiences and active participation at the core of this learning exchange.

The topics covered at this level are; Communication Skills, Healthy Living Skills and aspects of Character and Attitude Skills.

In the Communication skills topics, learners will be exposed to alternative ways of communication through various presentations and real life activities and simulations. Learners will also understand that the various barriers to communication and how these can be by passed through communication aids and devices. This will support the learner to communicate more effectively which will further support their independence.

In the Healthy Living Skills Topic, learners will be exposed to various health related aspects. Lectures in this topic will include presentations and real life activities and simulation related to healthy eating, being active and also how to approach healthcare professionals when needed. This unit also focused on the integration of body and mind for a healthy life.

During the topic of Character and Attitude, learners will be invited to explore different aspects of their own character and how this aspects can influence the people around them. Learners will also have the opportunity to look at their own strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement with various degrees of support which will further them support them into fitting into the world of work.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Use simulated tasks and real life experiences to work on personal self development with varying degrees of support.*
- 2. Apply basic techniques in communication in a familiar rehearsed situation with varying degrees of support.*
- 3. Apply healthy practices in own daily life, with varying degrees of support.*
- 4. Recognise own strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement with varying degrees of support.*

CDPWV-A03-2101 Customer Care and Employability Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The Employability Skills section of this unit aims at introducing students to skills needed at the workplace and focuses on three main areas:

- skills for gaining employment such as exploring occupations, searching for a job, documents needed when applying for job, and preparing for an interview
- developing transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and time-management
- developing skills in practice by participating in a supervised work placement

In the Customer Care section, learners will be introduced to basic customer care skills needed in the place of work. Learners will understand the importance of customer care skills when dealing with colleagues, superiors, clients and guests. Focus will be on:

- general customer rules, etiquette such as boundaries, attitude, punctuality and appropriate behaviour
- verbal and nonverbal communication skills at the place of work

salutations and correct procedures when answering the telephone

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

1. *Demonstrate the basic rules of customer care at the place of work.*
2. *Outline good communication skills needed at the place of work.*
3. *Identify the steps that need to be taken to find and apply for a job.*
4. *Identify basic employability skills.*
5. *Explore various processes and procedures at the workplace.*

CDCSE-A03-2001 Creative Self expression

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Apart from focusing on vocational training, the Introductory A of the Certificate in Vocational training offers a framework for the development and refinement of the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills of the learners.

These interactive lectures/workshops present an opportunity for a self-growth process helping learners gain the confidence to physically and emotionally experiment with various media such as drama, story making and storytelling, visual art and creative movement in the classroom.

This unit should be delivered through the application of the constructivist educational strategy which highlights the importance of actively involving learners in the learning process. Moreover, this unit will take the stance of a learner centered approach and will focus more on the learner's experience of the process of art making rather than the final product.

The study-unit also support learners to learn how to use the skills developed in the classroom to express themselves through different modes, promoting development in self-expression and creativity in real life.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Identify different creative self-Expressive modalities to develop self-awareness and personal growth with various degrees of support.*
- 2. Engage with a variety of media, techniques, and tools related to the creative arts both in an individual and group scenario and with various degrees of support.*
- 3. Recognize own creative qualities and unique ways of expressing them within a group setting, with varying degrees of support.*
- 4. Describe briefly the process of own creative self- expression to parents, peers and other adults within an intimate setting and with varying degrees of support.*

CDPWR-A03-2101 Retail

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Positive support measures and training in vocational skills to end underemployment of individuals with additional needs are key elements to unlock job potential.

This Unit will expose the learners to a general overview of what it is required to work in a retail environment in a world where consumerism is striving. Learners following this unit will look at the various retail channels, its department and various occupational roles and skills required to work within the different spheres of retail. The learners will also be encouraged to become familiar with the appropriate ways of positively presenting and dealing with superiors, colleagues and costumers. This will lead learners to be more familiar with the general retail terminology and skills which will further support them in their assistance of producing and selling of own products with their respective team and be able to communicate with costumers to provide basic information when needed.

This unit will also provide various hands on opportunities for the learners to experience on a first hand basis the five basic retail processes in various retail simulations and or real life retail activities organized by the college. Thus, learners will be exposed to practical ways of how to produce own products, budget for materials, package, store, present and sell them to various costumers, with varying degrees of support. In addition to this, learners will understand better the need to work in teams when working on such retail projects, as well as the importance of planning ahead and working within a deadline.

All the above, if achieved successfully, will enable the learners to continue with their studies in improving their vocational skills throughout the second part of the unit ***Retail*** in the following year.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Identify the basic retail organisational structure, titles and responsibilities of various retail workers, various retail channels, and product properties within the retail sector.*
- 2. Demonstrate the benefits of leaving a good impression at the place of work with various retail stakeholders, with varying degrees of support.*
- 3. Assist in the process of researching, designing, creating, finishing and packing own artisan products from various raw materials, with the potential of participating in a various retail processes.*

CDPWH-A03-2101 Hospitality

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

In this unit the learners will be exposed to the Tourism industry. By learning about the Touristic attractions, they will also be better able to identify what work opportunities there are for them.

In this unit learners will be better able to familiarize themselves with the various structures present in the Tourism industry in Malta. Learners will better identify what would be required of them in the various role capacities pertaining to jobs found within the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, and learn about the different forms of business that require their services.

Learners who attend the program will be prepared for vocational formation that is updated and current, with a focus on ethical and responsible performance that would make them job ready.

The skills learned through this first year of the program will introduce them to the wide array of skills required to work in the different department found in the Hospitality and Tourism industry.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Recognize the different Tourism Hotspots found in the Archipelago of Malta.*
- 2. Identify the food and nutrition required to prepare healthy meals.*
- 3. Demonstrate the proper use of equipment required of a waiter.*
- 4. Apply health and safety features found in the Food and Beverage Division of a Hotel i.e. kitchen and, restaurant.*
- 5. Perform tasks found in the Rooms Division.*

CDPWO-A03-2101 Office

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The aim of this unit is mainly to prepare learners to perform basic office duties in an office.

Learners will have the opportunity to get in touch with a range of hands-on tasks and duties that they will encounter as an office assistant. These tasks will include sorting, filing systems, folding papers, preparing mail, stapling, punching and other basic duties. Learners will also use different office equipment with guidance. Health and safety will be applied when using such equipment.

Different office roles within an office environment will be introduced within this unit. Importance will be given on the basic skills needed when working in an office. Learners will learn about punctuality and office attire.

The use of clear instructions, repetition, audio-visuals, digital resources, pictures and other various print can enhance learning. Brainstorming, role - plays, informal discussions, short specific hands-on repetitive tasks are some of the activities that can be used with varying degrees of support.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Define the meaning of office environment and the related basic equipment.*
- 2. Demonstrate the role of an office assistant.*
- 3. Handle basic office equipment/supplies safely and with support.*
- 4. Carry out simple office tasks safely and with support.*

CDPWD-A03-2101 Digital Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level A

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The aim of this unit is to introduce the student to the necessary digital literacy skills that one is expected to know when working in an office environment. This unit will provide students with the opportunity to become familiar to the digital skills through practice. At the end of the unit, the students should be able to use the computer to complete a variety of everyday tasks, which includes the ability to use a basic operating system and to apply basic file management techniques to their files and folders.

Throughout this unit too, the students will learn how to use different office productivity software such as word processing programs to prepare a structured document with basic formatting documents. Students will also learn how to present data using spreadsheets. Online communication and collaboration are a necessity in today's working environment, and hence students will learn how to browse the internet safely and create a basic email for communication. Additionally, by the end of this unit, students should also be familiar with Microsoft Teams for setting up and joining online meetings.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to

- 1. Define the meaning of office environment and the related basic equipment.*
- 2. Demonstrate the role of an office assistant.*
- 3. Handle basic office equipment/supplies safely and with support.*
- 4. Carry out simple office tasks safely and with support.*