



MCAST

MQF Introductory Level B

EPB-01-21

Award in Vocational Skills

Course Specification

Course Description

The Award in Vocational Skills is a programme of study following the MCAST Award in Vocational Skills - Introductory A that helps students with learning disabilities / learning difficulties consolidate the skills necessary to gain and maintain employment or to further their education. Students will have the opportunity to further their studies in the vocational area chosen in the MCAST Award in Vocational Skills - Introductory A, which are Hospitality and Retail, Office and Digital Skills. They will also focus on Key Skills which include Maltese, English, Mathematics, PSHE, IT, and Daily Living and Community Skills. A work placement experience in industry is also provided according to the vocational area being studied.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Acquire more specific skills in one of the two vocational areas;*
2. *Understand their personal inclination towards the role their chosen area offers;*
3. *Be prepared for independent living through consolidation of key skills and life skills;*
4. *Function, with minimum guidance, in society and contribute in the labour market.*

Entry Requirements

- Completion of MCAST Award in Vocational Skills - Introductory A

Other entry requirements:

- Adaptation to both class-based and community-based learning to be ascertained through the previous year
- Commitment to prospective employment.

Approved Programme Structure

Unit Code	Unit Title	ECVET
CDPKS-B03-2107	Mathematics	3
CDPKS-B03-2108	English	3
CDPKS-B03-2109	Malti	3
CDPKS-B03-2110	I.T.	3
CDPKS-B03-2111	Daily Living and Community Skills	3
CDPKS-B03-2112	Personal, Social and Health Education	3
CDPWV-B03-2102	Customer Care and Employability Skills	3
CDPWV-B03-2103	Health and Safety at Work	3
To choose ONE Strands from the below:		
Stand 1 - Introduction to Retail and Hospitality		
CDPWR-B03-2102	Basic Industry Skills in Retail II	3
CDPWH-B03-2102	Hospitality	3
Stand 2 - Introduction to Office and Digital Skills		
CDPWO-B03-2102	Office	3
CDPWD-B03-2102	Digital Skills	3
Total Credits		30

CDPKS-B03-2107 Mathematics

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The unit builds on previous knowledge learnt concerning the identification and use of numbers for different situations. Through the unit, the learners will apply basic mathematical concepts to everyday workplace contexts.

The learners will move on to applying the basic principles when using mathematical data and so learn to use data consisting in tables, charts, lists and pictures. Included in this section are the use of time management and money handling necessary for independent living.

As a final step towards completing this module, learners will make simple use of the application of shapes and spaces for everyday life and work related situations.

Topics are designed and implemented in a way to foster the development of numerate behaviour in everyday life in relation to the weather, transport, telephone, household, food, sports, body, daily activities, clothes, caring for the environment and the workplace in the areas of office work, production and retail, and tourism.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Use a range of numbers in their different forms.*
- 2. Manipulate simple data in lists and tables.*
- 3. Identify how objects of various shapes and sizes fit into spaces found at the workplace.*
- 4. Use various measuring tools found at the place of work.*

CDPKS-B03-2108 English

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

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 with varying degrees of support. 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 for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Topics and texts, presented to foster the language learning process, 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. Identify the purpose of a text and find relevant information in the text.*
- 2. Produce a simple text for a given audience and for a specific purpose.*
- 3. Follow the contributions of others in simple discussions/exchanges about familiar topics and in familiar situations.*
- 4. Participate in simple discussions/exchanges about familiar topics, making active contributions, with one or more people in familiar situations.*

CDPKS-B03-2109 Malti

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Id-Deskrizzjoni tal-Unità

F'din l-unità introduttorja ta' livell B, l-ilsien Malti jintgħallem biex l-istudenti jkunu kapaċi jisimgħu, jifhmu u jesprimu b'mod ċar dak li jaħsbu permezz tal-fomm u tal-kitba.

L-istudenti jingħataw il-possibilità li jaqraw messagġi u testi sempliċi marbuta mal-ħajja ta' kuljum u mal-qasam vokazzjonali tagħhom. L-istudenti jiksbu wkoll il-kapaċità li jiddiskutu u jagħtu l-opinjoni tagħhom fil-ħajja ta' kuljum u fuq il-post tax-xogħol, permezz ta' gwida mogħtija lilhom.

Il-Kisbiet mit-Tagħlim

- 1. Ifhem dak li jkun qed jintqal f'diskussjonijiet sempliċi dwar ħwejjeġ ta' kuljum permezz ta' gwida.*
- 2. Ikkomunika ideat f'diskussjonijiet sempliċi, b'Malti tajjeb dwar ħwejjeġ ta' kuljum, permezz ta' gwida.*
- 3. Ifhem testi sempliċi u qosra dwar ħwejjeġ ta' kuljum, permezz ta' gwida.*
- 4. Uża Malti tajjeb fil-kitba ta' sentenzi sempliċi u qosra, skont ir-regoli tal-grammatika u l-ortografija, permezz ta' gwida.*

CDPKS-B03-2110 I.T.

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

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

Moreover, everyday communication and learning processes use ICT very frequently. In order to ensure that learners can participate in everyday life and be active participants in the job market, ICT skills are vital and will be further developed in this unit.

In this unit, learners will learn how to use software and hardware, online safety, how to manage files and folders, how to search for information on the internet, the formatting and editing techniques in presenting information and how to send and receive information using emails.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Identify the different uses of software and hardware.*
- 2. Work safely and responsibly online.*
- 3. Work with files and folders to access, organize, store, label and retrieve information.*
- 4. Use online search tools to find information on the internet.*
- 5. Use basic formatting and editing techniques in word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.*
- 6. Use ICT based communication.*

CDPKS-B03-2111 Daily Living and Community Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

This unit builds on the skills obtained at Introductory Level A and aims to develop and further 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.

This unit is divided into 4 topics:

- Advanced Health & Hygiene (e.g. personal hygiene and care, selection and care of clothing, making, and keeping appointments with health care and helping professionals)
- Advanced Skills in the Home (e.g. folding and ironing clothes, preparing a meal, housecleaning)
- Advanced Skills in the Community (e.g. travel training and shopping)
- Advanced Civic Engagement and Leisure Activities (e.g. community work, restaurant skills and group activities)

Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Recognise the uses of personal hygiene and care products and important aspects of keeping healthy.*
2. *Perform a variety of home management skills.*
3. *Use public transport as well as community facilities and services.*
4. *Participate actively in planned civic engagement and leisure activities.*

CDPKS-B03-2112 Personal, Social and Health Education

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Apart from a vocational training focus, this programme offers a framework for the development and refinement of life skills. An in-depth involvement in the topic of 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.

Thus, the programme 'Award in Vocational Skills' is an ideal setting to support the social and emotional well-being while offering the appropriate resources and opportunities to build resilience for learners who need additional support in these areas. When both the social and emotional well-being aspects of the learners are supported, learners typically exhibit fewer disciplinary issues, can focus more on academic work, and can develop skills to communicate better in both personal and professional settings. This can also translate to improved academic outcomes and better health later in their adult independent life.

The topics covered at this level are *Emotional Health, Self-Advocacy Skills and Sexuality*.

In the topic of *Emotional Health*, the learner will be invited to develop an awareness of own feelings and how to express them in appropriate ways in various settings. The learner will understand that expressing their emotions in a safe way is crucial for their own emotional and mental health development. Moreover, the learners will also understand that their emotional manifestations have a direct consequence on the relationship with the people around them. With various degrees of support, the learners will also be able to identify some basic emotions in others and relate to them in an emphatic and supportive way.

The purpose of the topic *Self-Advocacy skills* is to familiarize learners with the concepts of self-awareness and self-advocacy while providing the learners with practical opportunities to identify and discuss their strengths and needs, while helping them in identifying questions they have regarding self-awareness and self-advocacy. With various degrees of support, learners will also have the opportunity to learn how to speak up for oneself, making own decisions about their own life, learning how to get information so that they

can understand things that are of interest to them and finding out who will support them in their journey of finding their own voice.

Lastly, sexuality is a key part of human nature and sex education is crucial for the overall healthy development of learners with additional needs. This topic will take a closer look at sexuality and how it develops throughout childhood and adolescence. It will also look at how healthy self-esteem and respect for self and others are important aspects in developing positive sexuality. Learners will understand that with adequate and reliable information, individuals with additional needs experience the same range of sexual thoughts, attitudes, feelings, desires, fantasies and activities as anyone else.

Learners will also understand that sexuality has psychological, biological and social aspects, and is influenced by the individual values and attitudes. Furthermore, the learner will also have the opportunity to understand and interpret their own sexuality and how it often changes over time.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Show confidence and responsibility during simulated and real life tasks and opportunities.*
- 2. Identify the basic human emotions and how these are expressed appropriately in various simulated and real life scenarios.*
- 3. Evaluate own strengths, weaknesses and needs to support personal development through a process of self-advocacy.*
- 4. Identify the physical, emotional, social processes of growing up in relation to own sexual development.*

CDPWV-B03-2102 Customer Care and Employability Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

In this unit, Customer Care learners will get in touch with a range of customer care skills which will eventually prepare them for the place of work.

Learners will learn how to show customers care skills in different working environment. Furthermore, they will learn about different customer care skills needed with colleagues, clients and guests mainly in different types of work environments such as, but not limited to, reception areas and shops.

Learners will focus on how to take phone calls and pass on messages. Importance will be given to body language and facial expressions when interacting with colleagues and clients. Also, proper salutations towards colleagues and customers will be learnt during this unit.

The Employability Skills section of this unit aims at facilitating the transition into the workplace and focuses on three main areas:

- skills for gaining employment such as developing a CV, writing a cover letter, filling out an application, interview skills, and rights at work
- developing transferable skills such as practicing basic employability skills, and creating a vocational portfolio
- developing skills in practice by participating in a supervised work placement

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Apply effective customer care skills in different work environments.*
- 2. Use proper customer care skills when dealing with colleagues, clients and guests.*
- 3. Practice skills for gaining employment.*
- 4. Develop basic employability skills.*
- 5. Develop skills on the job.*

CDPWV-B03-2103 Health and Safety at Work

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

Health and safety education is key to preventing injury at work. The ability to work safely is a vital life and career skill required to become a successful and fully functioning participant in today's work environment.

This unit covers basic occupational health and safety knowledge and skills. It aims to teach learners foundational job safety and health skills, which are general, transferable, and can apply across all jobs and industries. These skills include:

- identifying hazards at work,
- reducing or eliminating hazards,
- staying safe in an emergency, as well as
- recognizing health and safety rights and responsibilities on the job.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Identify hazards at work.*
2. *Indicate safe ways of working.*
3. *Identify ways to stay safe in an emergency at work.*
4. *Examine rights and responsibilities with regards to health and safety at work.*

CDPWR-B03-2102 Basic Industry Skills in Retail II

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The unit of Retail II will further build and solidify the vocational learning and competences achieved in Retail. This unit offers the possibility for learners to continue to look deeper at the practical competences and skills required in the world of retail. Learners will be encouraged to sharpen their vocational skills to work more on an independent level in areas that are at par with their level of acquired skills.

Amongst other topics which will be listed in this document, learners will be encouraged to take a closer look at the practical side of what it takes to work in a shop and shop warehouse, assisting in the product placement and decorating of the shelves, and providing customer with the best shopping experience. In this unit, learners will also be exposed to the effects of the retail industry on the environment and know about strategies on how to make it more sustainable.

They will also have the opportunity to express and develop their creativity in using tools and materials to create new products also by reusing and recycling a range of materials. Learners will learn different techniques of choosing and preparing the materials which aids in improving their own dexterity and fine motor skills. The selling of own produced goods will offer a practical experience for learners not only in the product production and packaging but also in the areas of product placements, shelf maintenance and customer care throughout the five basic selling processes.

All the above, if achieved successfully, will enable the learners to continue with their studies in improving their vocational skills in Retail at MCAST or work as a sales assistant or stacker within the retail sector.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Create own artisan products from various raw materials within a group setting, with varying degrees of support.*
- 2. Identify the importance of visual merchandising in the retail sector and in using basic strategies to promote the sales of own product.*
- 3. Apply basic customer care strategies.*
- 4. Carry out basic tasks related to keeping shelves/storage solutions organized and clean, with varying degrees of support.*
- 5. Identify industrial/retail waste is and appropriate recycling procedures to dispose of unused material, with varying degrees of support.*

CDPWH-B03-2102 Hospitality

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

In this unit, learners will be exposed to the tourism industry. By learning about the touristic attractions, learners will also be better able to identify what work opportunities are available.

In this unit learners will be better able to familiarise 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 second part of the program will introduce them to the wide array of skills required to work in the different departments found in the Hospitality and Tourism industry. Learners will be more independent to carry out tasks under supervision, yet independently.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Show customer etiquette in the tourism and hospitality industry.*
2. *Prepare for work in the hospitality and tourism industry with the help of a job coach/tutor.*
3. *Prepare meals independently.*
4. *Serve guests independently.*
5. *Practice the skills for rooms division independently.*

CDPWO-B03-2102 Office

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

In this unit learners will understand the different roles and responsibilities in an office. Importance will be given to organizational skills in an office such as general rules, etiquette, behaviour, time management and politeness. Furthermore, learners will practice different duties/task using both office supply and equipment.

Importance will be given to different office routines and also on how to start and finish a task. Learners will understand how to work individually and also how to be part of a team.

During this unit learners will understand the importance of how to be organised and reliable at the place of work. Consequently, they will be able to assist different roles in an office.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Identify roles and daily routines in an office.*
- 2. Understand the importance of organizational skills in an office.*
- 3. Outline the importance of etiquette when working in an office.*
- 4. Perform office duties with guidance.*

CDPWD-B03-2102 Digital Skills

Unit level (MQF): Introductory Level B

Credits: 3

Unit Description

The aim of this unit is to help the learner acquire the necessary digital literacy skills that one is expected to know when working in an office environment. This unit will provide learners with the opportunity of acquiring digital skills through practice. At the end of the unit, the learners should be confident in using the computer to complete a variety of everyday tasks, which includes the ability to use a basic operating system and to manage their files and folders.

Throughout this unit too, the learners will learn how to use different office productivity software such as word processing programs to prepare well-formatted documents. Learners will also learn how to present data using spreadsheets. Since online communication and collaboration is essential in today's working environment, learners will also learn how to browse the internet safely and communicate effectively through emails. Additionally, by the end of this unit, learners should also be proficient in using Microsoft Teams for setting up online meetings, and working on the cloud.

Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. Use ICT effectively to complete everyday tasks in an Office Environment.*
- 2. Conduct basic tasks using a Word Processing Application.*
- 3. Present data using a Spreadsheet Application.*
- 4. Use the Internet to browse, collaborate and communicate with others.*