Training Qualifications UK

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Alternative Academic Qualifications

TQUK Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Design, Engineer, and Construct in the Digital Built Environment (Extended Certificate) (RQF)

The Basics

www.tquk.org

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What are AAQs?

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) have been approved by the Department for Education (DfE). When combined with A Levels as part of a mixed-study programme, AAQs offer learners a high-quality entry route to higher education with the added benefit of UCAS tariff points.

The TQUK Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Design, Engineer, and Construct in the Digital Built Environment (Extended Certificate) (RQF) is designed to provide for learners aged 16-19. Its purpose is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for progression to higher education and careers within the built environment sector.

It provides learners with a strong foundation in the core design, engineering, and construction principles, complementing the theoretical concepts that are covered in the A Level curriculum.

This integrated approach will enable learners to gain a thorough understanding of academic principles and their practical application. It will also enhance their university/college applications, giving them a competitive edge.

What will Learners Study?

The AAQ seeks to equip learners with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the approaches required when designing a sustainable construction project.

It comprises five mandatory units as outlined in the following table:

Unit	Unit Title
Unit 1:	Sustainability and Planning
Unit 2:	Research, Concept and Context
Unit 3:	Facilities Management and Financial Planning
Unit 4:	Design and Information Management
Unit 5:	Evaluating and documenting a sustainable construction project

The Focus of the Qualification

This AAQ is equivalent to one A Level and may typically be completed as part of a two-year study programme.

It allows learners to develop their knowledge and skills in design, the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM), financial planning, and a building's lifecycle, as well as honing review and evaluation skills.
Learners will explore the key stages of a sustainable construction project from the initial design idea to its review and evaluation.

Project management will form a large part of the knowledge and essential skills-building, and learners will gain an understanding of techniques to include, such as 3-D modelling, floor planning, and the use of BIM.

Learners will study financial planning, budgeting, and financial control to create cost-effective design solutions. They will also learn about the key role of a building's lifecycle when designing a construction project and its economic and social impact.

Total Qualification Time

An estimate of the overall time a learner will typically take to achieve and demonstrate the required level of attainment:

Qualification	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Direct Study	Total qualification time (TQT)
TQUK Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Design, Engineer, Construct in the Digital Built Environment (Extended Certificate) (RQF)	360	40	400

Assessment

The assessments are unitised and consist of Examination Assessments (EA) and Non-examination Assessments (NEA). The NEA will be released each year in September.

The assessment weightings are:

Year	Unit	Assessment Method
Year 1	Unit 1. Sustainability and Planning	Examination Assessment
	Unit 2. Research, Concept and Context	Non-examination Assessment
Year 2	Unit 3. Facilities Management and Financial Planning	Examination Assessment
	Unit 4. Design and Information Management	Non-examination Assessment
	Unit 5. Evaluating and documenting a sustainable construction project	Non-examination Assessment
Assessment Weighting	**Examination Assessment**	40%
	Non-examination Assessment	60%

HE Progression

The AAQ has been designed to support progression to higher education and may support entry to the following degree programmes:

Degree Programmes			
Architectural Engineering	Architectural Technology	Building Services Engineering	Building Surveying
Construction Site Management	Landscape Architecture	Civil and Structural Engineering	Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering	Construction Project Management	Geographical Information Systems	Property Development and Planning
Geospatial Science and Mapping	Quantity Surveying and Construction	Interior Architecture and Design	Urban Planning

Benefits for Future Study

Throughout the AAQ, learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in areas such as written and verbal communication skills, proficiency in academic writing, critical thinking and analysis, time management skills, collaborative working, and the ability to carry out independent research.

The AAQ is designed to foster innovation and creativity, equipping learners with the tools necessary to drive forward the advancements in sustainable design, engineering, and construction practices required in the 21st century

These skills closely align with university expectations and will ensure that the learners are prepared for the rigour of higher-level study, where they can apply them at an advanced level.

This knowledge and skills development will be invaluable to learners wishing to further their studies in disciplines such as design engineering, architecture, urban planning, building surveying, construction management, and quantity surveying.

A Levels to Complement this AAQ

The A Level subject areas that would complement this AAQ include Mathematics, Physics, Art and Design, Design and Technology, Environmental Technology, Business Studies, and Economics.

Combining the AAQ with A Levels in Mathematics, Chemistry, or Physics would introduce learners to the quantitative and analytical skills required in a range of engineering disciplines. This would be particularly relevant for degrees in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering.

Studying the AAQ with A levels in Mathematics, Computer Science, or Physics would benefit learners interested in structural engineering or robotics. This combination integrates technical with analytical skills, fostering creativity with practical design elements.

Learners may also combine the AAQ with A Levels in Geography, Biology, or Chemistry. This would allow learners to explore the sustainable and environmental aspects of construction and develop a greater understanding of ecological and chemical principles. This combination would support entry to degrees in environmental science or engineering.

More Information

For further information about the TQUK Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Design, Engineer, and Construct in the Digital Built Environment (Extended Certificate), please visit the TQUK website.

If you're new to Training Qualifications UK, you can contact us by calling 03333 583 344 or emailing business.development@tquk.org.