



Changing lives through learning

Access to HE Diploma

# English

***AIM: 40012281***

Qualification Guide

## Contents

About the Qualification .....	3
Any Specified Entry Requirements.....	4
Recommended Assessment Method Summary .....	4
Qualification Structure .....	5
Rules of Combination .....	5
Barred Combinations of Units .....	6
Qualification Units.....	7
Graded .....	7
Ungraded .....	10
Delivering this Qualification .....	13
Becoming a Provider .....	13
How to Deliver .....	13
Registering Learners .....	13
Quality Assurance and Standardisation.....	14
Provider Staff Requirements .....	14
Assessment .....	14
Internal Verification .....	15
Internal Standardisation.....	16
External Standardisation.....	16
Training and support .....	17
Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL).....	17
Appendices and Links .....	17

### Version Control

v1.0	New document April 2023
v2.0	Document rebranded. 6 graded credits added to align with revised QAA Diploma specification following minor change process. May 2024
v3.0	Update to qualification guide to note barred unit combinations. – October 2025.

## About the Qualification

<b>Title</b>	Open Awards Access to HE Diploma (English)
<b>Qualification Accreditation Number</b>	AIM 40012281
<b>Sector</b>	12.2 Other Languages, Literature and Culture
<b>Level</b>	Level Three
<b>Funding</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Pricing Information</b>	<a href="#">Please click here for more information</a>
<b>Review Date</b>	31/07/2028

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide higher education progression opportunities for adults who, because of social, educational or individual circumstances, may have achieved few, if any, prior qualifications.
----------------	--

<b>Available Delivery Modes</b>	Classroom-based Learning Blended Learning Distance Learning
---------------------------------	---

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
Total Qualification Time (hours)	600
Guided Learning (hours)	600

Age Range and Restrictions	
Pre -16	x
16 – 18	✓
18+	✓
Any other restrictions specific to the qualification(s)	None

## **Any Specified Entry Requirements**

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 16+.

There are no specific entry requirements with regards to prior qualifications. However, providers must liaise with Higher Education Institutions when developing their Access to HE programme to identify any additional requirements for progression.

In most cases, we expect learners to have or being working towards GCSE English and maths at grade C/4 or above or equivalent

## **Recommended Assessment Method Summary**

Assessments for Access to HE Diplomas are internally set, internally marked and externally moderated portfolio of evidence

Providers will be required to develop an assessment strategy before they begin delivery of this Diploma. This will ensure that a range of appropriate assessment methods are selected. Consideration must be given to the needs of all learners whilst also making sure that they can develop and evidence the skills, knowledge and confidence that will prepare them for the rigorous assessment regimes in higher education.

Types of evidence could include:

- a) Written assignments
- b) Essays
- c) Reports
- d) Presentations
- e) Practical assessment
- f) Examinations
- g) Project work

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards.

Please see the [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information.

# Qualification Structure

## Rules of Combination

<b>Credit Value of the Qualification:</b>	60
<b>Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification:</b>	45
<b>Graded Credits</b>	45
<b>Ungraded Credits</b>	15

<b>Graded Units</b>	
Mandatory Academic Unit Group A – English Language	A minimum of 9 graded credits required.
Mandatory Academic Unit Group B – English Literature	A minimum of 15 graded credits required.
Optional Academic Unit Group C – Film, Media and Culture	The remaining 21 graded credits may be selected from Unit Groups A-D.
Optional Academic Unit Group D – History	
<b>Ungraded Units</b>	
Optional Ungraded Unit Group A – English Language	15 ungraded credits to be selected from Optional Ungraded groups A, B or Ungraded group E (Developmental).
Optional Ungraded Unit Group B – English Literature	
Optional Ungraded Unit Group E – Developmental	

In addition, you must ensure that at least one six (6) credit (academic graded, academic ungraded, or ungraded developmental) to be compliant with the requirements of the QAA Access to HE Diploma specification.

You can select up to a maximum of 30 credits made up of six (6) credit (academic graded, ungraded, or ungraded developmental) units.

## Barred Combinations of Units

Where content between units overlaps, and where units have the same title (ungraded and graded), this would represent a barred unit combination.

Information on units that are barred within this qualification can be found in the table below (these units are also denoted with an asterisk \* on the full qualification unit listing).

* The following units reflect barred unit combinations within this Diploma and must <b>not</b> be delivered together on the same course.
--

<b>Developmental</b>
----------------------

Communication: Critical Thinking in Academic Writing – barred against <b>Communication: Academic Essay Writing</b>
--

ICT: Using ICT and Word Processing – barred against <b>ICT: Using ICT; ICT Word Processing</b>
--

Study Skills: Research Skills and Using Information – barred against <b>Study Skills: Developing Research Skills; Study Skills: Using Research Skills</b>
---

## Qualification Units

### Graded

#### Mandatory Academic Unit Group A – English Language

(A minimum of 9 graded credits required).

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33ENG12	Child Language Acquisition	3	Level Three
GA36ENG28	Content Creation	6	Level Three
GA33ENG21	Persuasive Communication	3	Level Three
GA36ENG05	Script Writing	6	Level Three
GA33ENG10	Short Stories	3	Level Three
GA33ENG23	Sociolinguistics	3	Level Three
GA33ENG03	Standard and Non-Standard English	3	Level Three
GA33ENG19	The English Language Today	3	Level Three
GA33ENG13	The Sounds of English	3	Level Three
GA33ENG27	Varieties of Language	3	Level Three
GA36ENG20	Writing Fiction	6	Level Three
GA33ENG14	Writing for Magazines	3	Level Three
GA33ENG04	Writing Poetry	3	Level Three

#### Mandatory Graded Group B – English Literature

(A minimum of 15 graded credits required).

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33ENG01	Appreciating a Play	3	Level Three
GA33ENG25	Appreciating Poetry	3	Level Three
GA33ENG26	Appreciating the Female Perspective	3	Level Three
GA33ENG09	Appreciation of a Novel	3	Level Three
GA33ENG17	Aspects of World Literature	3	Level Three
GA33ENG22	Children's Literature	3	Level Three
GA36ENG28	Comparing Short Stories	6	Level Three
GA36ENG29	Exploring Women's Literature Through a Postcolonial Lens	6	Level Three
GA33ENG16	Gothic Fiction	3	Level Three
GA33ENG02	Literary Theories and Criticism	3	Level Three
GA33ENG18	Shakespeare	3	Level Three
GA33ENG10	Short Stories	3	Level Three

GA33ENG06	Values and Ideology in an American Novel	3	Level Three
-----------	--	---	-------------

### Optional Academic Unit Group C – Film, Media and Culture

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33FMC07	Documentary Film	3	Level Three
GA33FMC02	Film Form	3	Level Three
GA33FMC06	Genre in Film	3	Level Three
GA33FMC05	Organisation and Control of Contemporary News Media	3	Level Three
GA36FMC07	Practical Video Production	6	Level Three
GA33FMC08	Reading the Media	3	Level Three
GA33FMC01	Television in Britain	3	Level Three
GA33FMC03	The Sixties in the Cinema	3	Level Three

### Optional Academic Unit Group D – History

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
GA33HIS56	A History of the English Monarchy	3	Level Three
GA33HIS49	British Colonialism in Africa	3	Level Three
GA33HIS30	British Foreign Policy in the 1930s	3	Level Three
GA33HIS45	British Prehistory	3	Level Three
GA33HIS50	Decolonisation of British Colonial Africa	3	Level Three
GA33HIS39	Economic Change in the Interwar Period	3	Level Three
GA33HIS22	European Expansion and Disaster 1870 - 1914	3	Level Three
GA33HIS51	Examining the Experiences of the American Enslaved	3	Level Three
GA33HIS57	Exploring Feminism Over Time	3	Level Three
GA33HIS60	Exploring LGBTQ History	3	Level Three
GA33HIS15	Greece: The Classical Era (Fifth Century BCE)	3	Level Three
GA33HIS33	Hitler's Persecution of the Jews	3	Level Three
GA33HIS17	Hitler's Rise to Power	3	Level Three
GA33HIS05	Introduction to the Dark Ages 476 – 1000	3	Level Three
GA33HIS14	Introduction to the High Medieval Age in Britain 1000-1200	3	Level Three
GA33POL11	Key Traditions in Political Philosophy	3	Level Three

GA33HIS23	Liverpool and the Atlantic Slave Trade	3	Level Three
GA33HIS01	Medieval Britain c.1150-1450	3	Level Three
GA33HIS58	Mythology of the Ancients	3	Level Three
GA36HIS47	Regional History	6	Level Three
GA33HIS52	Remembering Windrush	3	Level Three
GA33HIS41	Rome: The Age of Augustus	3	Level Three
GA33HIS29	Rome: The Collapse of the Republic	3	Level Three
GA33HIS04	Rome: The Early Empire	3	Level Three
GA33HIS08	Stalin's Rise to Power	3	Level Three
GA33HIS42	Stalinism and Modernisation in Russia	3	Level Three
GA33HIS35	Studying History: An Introduction	3	Level Three
GA33HIS43	The 'Viking Age': from the Eighth to the Eleventh Century	3	Level Three
GA36HIS53	The American Civil Rights Movement	6	Level Three
GA33HIS10	The Ancient Near East: Third Millennium	3	Level Three
GA33HIS07	The Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1948	3	Level Three
GA33HIS46	The Birth of Modern Ireland	3	Level Three
GA33HIS36	The Birth of the Modern British State	3	Level Three
GA33HIS54	The British Abolition Movement to End the Slave Trade in 1807	3	Level Three
GA36HIS28	The English Reformation	6	Level Three
GA33HIS21	The First Crusade and the Rise and Fall of the Outremer	3	Level Three
GA33HIS06	The Impact of the Second World War on Europe	3	Level Three
GA33HIS38	The Industrial Revolution in Britain: Nature and Scope 1760 - 1830	3	Level Three
GA33HIS26	The Industrial Revolution in Britain: Social Consequences 1800 - 1850	3	Level Three
GA33HIS59	The Life, Empire, Death and Legacy of Alexander the Great	3	Level Three
GA33HIS32	The Renaissance	3	Level Three
GA33HIS09	The Rise and Fall of the Normans in England	3	Level Three
GA33HIS25	The Role of History in the Northern Ireland Crisis	3	Level Three
GA33HIS55	The Role of the Liverpool Merchants in Developing Liverpool's Prominence in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade	3	Level Three
GA33HIS11	The Russian Revolutions of 1917	3	Level Three

GA33HIS34	<a href="#">The Suffragette Movement</a>	3	Level Three
GA33HIS44	<a href="#">The War of the Roses</a>	3	Level Three

## Ungraded

### Optional Ungraded Group A – English Language

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UA33ENG12	<a href="#">Child Language Acquisition</a>	3	Level Three
UA36ENG28	<a href="#">Content Creation</a>	6	Level Three
UA33ENG21	<a href="#">Persuasive Communication</a>	3	Level Three
UA36ENG05	<a href="#">Script Writing</a>	6	Level Three
UA33ENG10	<a href="#">Short Stories</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG23	<a href="#">Sociolinguistics</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG03	<a href="#">Standard and Non-Standard English</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG19	<a href="#">The English Language Today</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG13	<a href="#">The Sounds of English</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG27	<a href="#">Varieties of Language</a>	3	Level Three
UA36ENG20	<a href="#">Writing Fiction</a>	6	Level Three
UA33ENG14	<a href="#">Writing for Magazines</a>	3	Level Three

### Optional Ungraded Group B – English Literature

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UA33ENG01	<a href="#">Appreciating a Play</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG25	<a href="#">Appreciating Poetry</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG26	<a href="#">Appreciating the Female Perspective</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG09	<a href="#">Appreciation of a Novel</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG17	<a href="#">Aspects of World Literature</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG22	<a href="#">Children's Literature</a>	3	Level Three
UA36ENG28	<a href="#">Comparing Short Stories</a>	6	Level Three
UA36ENG29	<a href="#">Exploring Women's Literature Through a Postcolonial Lens</a>	6	Level Three
UA33ENG16	<a href="#">Gothic Fiction</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG02	<a href="#">Literary Theories and Criticism</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG18	<a href="#">Shakespeare</a>	3	Level Three
UA33ENG10	<a href="#">Short Stories</a>	3	Level Three

UA33ENG06	Values and Ideology in an American Novel	3	Level Three
-----------	--	---	-------------

### Optional Ungraded Group E – Developmental

Unit Code	Unit Name	Credits	Level
UD33DEV23	Communication: Academic Essay Writing*	3	Level Three
UD36DEV35	Communication: Critical Thinking in Academic Writing*	6	Level Three
UD33DEV29	Communication: Portfolio of Writing Exercises	3	Level Three
UD33DEV25	Communication: Presentation Skills	3	Level Three
UD23DEV21	Communication: Punctuation and Grammar Skills	3	Level Two
UD23DEV20	Communication: Reading Strategies	3	Level Two
UD33DEV24	Communication: Report Writing	3	Level Three
UD23DEV19	Communication: Speaking and Listening Skills	3	Level Two
UD23DEV22	Communication: Writing for Meaning	3	Level Two
UD33DEV10	ICT: Advance Use of ICT	3	Level Three
UD33DEV15	ICT: Advanced Word Processing	3	Level Three
UD23DEV09	ICT: Using ICT*	3	Level Two
UD26DEV24	ICT: Using ICT and Word Processing*	6	Level Two
UD23DEV11	ICT: Using Presentation Software	3	Level Two
UD23DEV13	ICT: Using Spreadsheets	3	Level Two
UD23DEV14	ICT: Word Processing*	3	Level Two
UD33DEV27	Personal Development: Applying for HE	3	Level Three
UD33DEV28	Personal Development: Setting Targets and Reflective Practice	3	Level Three
UD33DEV26	Personal Development: Study Skills	3	Level Three
UD33DEV32	Professional Behaviours	3	Level Three
UD33DEV30	Research: Practical Research for Psychology	3	Level Three
UD33DEV31	Science: Biological Practical Skills	3	Level Three
UD23DEV06	Science: Introduction to Biology	3	Level Two
UD23DEV08	Science: Introduction to Chemistry	3	Level Two
UD23DEV07	Science: Introduction to Physics	3	Level Two
UD36DEV37	Study Skills: Academic Skills for Access to HE	6	Level Three
UD36DEV38	Study Skills: Access Research Project	6	Level Three

UD33DEV18	Study Skills: Critical Analysis*	3	Level Three
UD33DEV16	Study Skills: Developing Research Skills*	3	Level Three
UD36DEV36	Study Skills: Research Skills and Using Information*	6	Level Three
UD33DEV17	Study Skills: Using Research Skills*	3	Level Three
UD23DEV02	Use of Number: Data Handling and Probability	3	Level Two
UD23DEV03	Use of Number: Maths Project	3	Level Two
UD23DEV04	Use of Number: Measure and Shape	3	Level Two
UD23DEV01	Use of Number: Numbers and Algebra	3	Level Two

## Delivering this Qualification

### Becoming a Provider

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards Provider. For more information, head to our [website](#) or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

### How to Deliver

If you are approved to deliver Access to HE Diplomas with Open Awards, you can apply deliver this Diploma by completing a [Programme Approval Form](#) and submitting via the Programme Approval workflow event on the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Programme Approval Guidance document, Provider Handbook, or contact the team on 0151 494 2072 or [customerservices@openawards.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@openawards.org.uk).

If you are not already an approved Access to HE provider, please contact the team on [enquiries@openawards.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@openawards.org.uk) to discuss the approval process.

### Registering Learners

Access to HE learners should be registered within 6 weeks of the learner's individual start date or before the learner's official (usually UCAS) application deadline via the Open Awards Secure Portal. Please make sure that learners are registered with the correct details and on the correct Diploma. If learners are registered incorrectly, there will be an administration charge to rectify errors. Learners can be added onto existing course runs but are subject to the 6-week registration deadline.

Amendments or late registrations may be requested up to 26 weeks from the learner's start date but are only considered in extenuating circumstances and on an individual basis. These requests may result in further investigations by Open Awards and control measures may be applied.

Learner registration data can be submitted using the provided 'LRF (Access to HE)' template or via a report generated from your own MIS system. The data provided must be in accordance with the Access to the HE Data Specification document which is available via the secure portal.

You will need to register your learners via [the Portal](#). More information can be found in our Access to HE Provider Handbook.

## **Quality Assurance and Standardisation**

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Please see our Access to HE Provider Handbook for more information.

### **Provider Staff Requirements**

It is expected that providers will have occupationally competent staff with relevant sector experience for their role in the delivery of the units/qualifications being offered.

For the delivery and assessment of this qualification, it is expected that staff have a qualification at the level higher than the qualification in a related academic subject and have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in assessment and quality assurance.

Providers are responsible for ensuring that their staff are occupationally competent and have access to appropriate training and support. They are also responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

### **Assessment**

Each Access to HE Diploma must be supported by assessment plans to ensure that students are able to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and confidence that will prepare them for the rigorous assessment regimes in higher education.

Tutors must develop plans which show how they intend to assess each unit and the Diploma as a whole. These plans must be internally moderated. The assessment plan should cover the whole Diploma and include:

- Number of assignments
- Type and range of assessments
- How tasks will allow for differentiation
- An assessment strategy for the whole Diploma
- A schedule of delivery and assessment/ scheme of work
- Consideration as to whether the strategy prepares learners for Higher Education

In order to achieve the Diploma, learners must meet all Learning Outcomes and associated Assessment Criteria in all units approved in the Diploma specification.

Each Assessment Criterion must be assessed only once. For graded units, a grade can only be determined upon completion of all unit learning outcomes.

There are three Grading Standards which must be applied equally to all units and all assessments within graded academic units. The three grading standards are:

1. Knowledge and Understanding
2. Subject Specific Skills
3. Transferable Skills

For more information on grading, please see the Provider Handbook or visit the QAA website [here](#).

A variety of assessment methods should be used which will allow learners the opportunity to develop experience and skills required for HE study.

Where a unit is assessed by more than one assignment, the assessment strategy must clearly state which graded descriptors will be considered for each assignment and how you will apply a single grade for the unit.

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards. Reasonable adjustments may be required for individual learners to enable them to undertake assessments fairly. Please see our Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy for more information.

### **Preparing Assignments**

One of the many benefits of an Open Awards Access to HE Diploma is that tutors design the assignments for their own provision to suit the context of delivery and to make the most of the variety of assessments methods available in individual circumstances. Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information

### **Drafts, Submissions and Re-submissions**

It is a requirement that you publish procedures for the formal submission of work for assessment in your course handbook. These procedures must be the same for all the Access Diplomas that you are approved to deliver.

Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information

### **Internal Verification**

Internal verification is a process by which the provider systematically samples and evaluates its assessment practices and decisions, and acts on the findings to ensure consistency and fairness. The main purpose is to improve and standardise practice in the assessment of learners.

The Access to HE Coordinator must take responsibility for internal verification of all Access to HE Diplomas at your organisation and we will expect that you have the appropriate levels of resources to implement these processes.

Verification activities must include:

- Pre-delivery verification
- Verification of achievement

## **Internal Standardisation**

Standardisation is a vital component of any robust quality assurance system and as a condition of provider approval all Open Awards Access to HE providers agree to participate in standardisation activities.

Where more than one tutor / assessor makes assessment decisions and recommendations for the award of credit to learners on the same Diploma or similar courses it is essential that internal verification processes include the standardisation of their practice.

Open Awards expect providers to plan and undertake standardisation of internally- set tasks and the outcomes of internal assessment **at least twice a year**.

Please see our [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#) for more information on verification and standardisation activities required.

## **External Standardisation**

Standardisation is a vital component of any robust quality assurance system and as a condition of provider approval all Open Awards Access to HE providers agree to participate in standardisation activities, both internally and externally.

Open Awards runs a series of standardisation activities that are accessible to all Access to HE providers.

Open Awards runs live standardisation events for each pathway to allow practitioners to peer review and learn from each other through networking. We are aware that some staff may wish to participate in standardisation activities but will be unable to attend events at the Open Awards office.

We also offer online standardisation activities. You will be provided with access to an online repository of standardisation activities, training and opportunities to share best practices.

For more information on each of these processes, please see the [Access to HE Provider Handbook](#).

## **Training and support**

Open Awards offers a variety of training and support to Providers. Our online training and support is free of charge and can be accessed on the following link <https://oallearn.org.uk/shop>. An everlasting coupon (PLUC code) will be issued to each Provider to gain free access to these resources.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)**

Learners presenting evidence of accredited prior learning on non-Access courses can apply for exemption for credit on relevant Level 2 and Level 3 units where appropriate.

Learners who have achieved Access to HE Diploma credits (either from Open Awards or another AVA) may wish to claim credit towards an Open Awards Diploma. Credit transfer is dependent on the content of the unit/s from which those credits were gained matching the content of the unit/s for which they wish to claim.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on [the Portal](#).

## **Appendices and Links**

The following documents can be viewed on the Open Awards [website](#):

1. Provider Handbook
2. Enquiries and Appeals Policy and Procedures
3. Complaints Policy
4. Equality and Diversity Policy
5. Invoicing Policy
6. Privacy Policy
7. Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedures

Additional supporting documents can be viewed in the Open Awards Portal.

Page left intentionally blank

© Copyright Open Awards 2025.

All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce for personal and educational use only. Commercial copying, hiring or lending is prohibited.

**Open Awards**

17 De Havilland Drive,  
Estuary Commerce Park  
Speke  
Liverpool  
L24 8N

**0151 494 2072**

[enquiries@openawards.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@openawards.org.uk)

[www.openawards.org.uk](http://www.openawards.org.uk)

@openawards