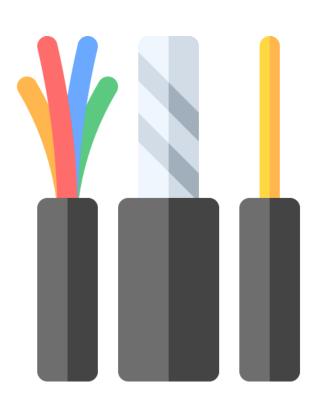# Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Communications Networks (RQF)

603/7809/8

Contents

About the Qualification

Title	Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Communications Networks (RQF)
QAN	603/7809/8
Sector	6.1 ICT Practitioners
Level	Three (3)
Funding	[Please click here for more information](#)
Pricing Information	[Please click here for more information](#)
Review Date	31/08/2026

Ofqual Purpose	Prepare for employment in a broad occupational area
Ofqual Sub-Purpose	Develop Knowledge and/or Skills in a Subject Area

Endorsed Achievement Routes
Within this qualification, learners have a choice of 5 endorsed pathway routes. The unit combination for each of these are outlined in the 'Qualification Unit' section of this qualification guide. The chosen route will appear on the qualification certificate to evidence achievement in the chosen specialism.

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
Certificate	
Total Qualification Time (hours)	130
Guided Learning (hours)	80

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

Any specified entry requirements

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 18+

Learners should have a good standard of English and Maths (i.e. GCSE/Functional Skills).

Due to the nature of the qualification learners should be 18 at the time of registration for the qualification.

Recommended Assessment Method Summary

Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by the education provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Candidates must provide sufficient evidence that they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is their own work.

Types of evidence could include:
   a) Observation of performance
   b) Questioning (written or oral)
   c) Practical Activities
   d) Photographs or videos
   e) Personal statements
   f) Project work/written work
   g) Witness testimonies
   h) Group discussion
   i) Recognition of Prior Learning

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

Recommended Equipment List
In order to deliver this qualification, centres will need to have/have access to the following equipment for every **six (6)** learners in the group:

Unit: Advanced Fibre Networks Technology
• Exercises and case studies based on real networks • Relevant BS EN / IEC standards

Unit: Advanced OTDR Testing
• Sample traces from real fibre systems • CD and PMD test equipment or equivalent test system emulation software • Suitable fibre test systems and accessories

Unit: Advanced Polarisation Mode Dispersion and Chromatic Dispersion Testing
• Sample traces from real fibre systems • CD and PMD test equipment or equivalent test system emulation software • Suitable fibre test systems and accessories

Unit: Health and Safety Risks in Communications Networks
• Paper-based selection of scenarios from industry or • Access to real-life setting for risk assessment

Unit: Basic Principles of Telecommunications
• None required

Unit: Copper Communications Cable Testing and Fault Finding
• Multimeter with analogue scale (optional) • 3 digital multimeters • Insulation Tester • TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer) • Copper cable Certification Tester (Fluke or similar) • Assorted test leads • Copper cable for testing, such as 3 rolls of 100 m Cat5E or Cat6 cable

Unit: Distribution Side Copper Cable Jointing
• Copper cabling samples • Copper cables, range of sizes • Cable hand tools • Joints, range of types (crimp or IDC) • Cabinets and/or mounted back-plates • Jointing jigs (1 for every 2 trainees) • Blow torches for heatshrink (1 for every 2 trainees) • Distribution boxes, range of types Note: the consumable cable, joints and accessories should be sufficient to allow every trainee to attempt and/or complete several joints or tasks.

Unit: Fibre Optics Installation and Testing
• 3 Fusion Splicers with cleavers • 3 sets of fibre tools • 3 Fibre trays • Joint enclosure • Pigtails, fibre, cable, sleeves • Connector & cable samples

• Mechanical splices
• 2 OTDRs with test leads
• 1 Light Source & Power meter,
• 1 Visible Fault Locator
• 2 Fibre test boxes
Unit: Fibre Optics Introduction
• 1 Auto Fusion Splicer
• 1 OTDR, 1 LS & PM, 1 VFL
• Fibre test box
• 1 set of fibre tools
• Pigtails, fibre, cable
• Joint enclosure
• Fibre patch panel
• Connector samples
• Mechanical splices
Unit: Optical Fibre and Cable Blowing
• Duct, duct connectors, fibre and cable samples
• Set of hand tools and accessories
• Duct system to blow into
• Suitable blowing equipment for the duct system
• Suitable fibre cable for the duct system
Unit: Optical Network Design and Planning
• Exercises and case studies based on real networks
• Relevant BS EN / IEC standards

Qualification Units

Rules of Combination	
Certificate	
Credit Value of the Qualification	13
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification	10
Optional Pathways	
Advance Network Design	A minimum of 10 credits to be achieved from mandatory unit group A for this pathway A minimum of three credits to be achieved from optional unit group B for this pathway
Advance Fibre Characterisation	A minimum of 10 credits to be achieved from mandatory unit group A for this pathway A minimum of three credits to be achieved from optional unit group B for this pathway
Copper Telecoms Cabling	A minimum of 13 credits to be achieved from mandatory unit group A for this pathway
Data Comms Installation	A minimum of 13 credits to be achieved from mandatory unit group A for this pathway
Fibre Cable Installation	A minimum of 13 credits to be achieved from mandatory unit group A for this pathway

Advance Network Design

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
Mandatory Unit Group A			
A/618/8305	Advanced Fibre Networks Technology	5	Level Three
T/618/8304	Optical Network Design and Planning	5	Level Three
Optional Unit Group B			
M/618/8298	Fibre Optics Installation and Testing	5	Level Three
K/618/8297	Fibre Optics Introduction	3	Level Two

Advance Fibre Characterisation

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
Mandatory Unit Group A			
M/618/8303	Advanced OTDR Testing	5	Level Three
K/618/8302	Advanced Polarisation Mode Dispersion and Chromatic Dispersion Testing	5	Level Three
Optional Unit Group B			
M/618/8298	Fibre Optics Installation and Testing	5	Level Three
K/618/8297	Fibre Optics Introduction	3	Level Two

Mandatory Unit Group A – Copper Telecoms Cabling

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
H/618/8296	Health and Safety in Communications Networks	3	Level Three
H/618/8301	Copper Communications Cable Testing and Fault Finding	5	Level Three
T/618/8299	Distribution Side Copper Cable Jointing	5	Level Two

Mandatory Group A – Data Comms Installation

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
J/618/8307	Basic Principles of Telecommunications	5	Level Two
L/618/8308	Copper Datacoms Cable Installation and Testing	5	Level Three
M/618/8298	Fibre Optics Installation and Testing	5	Level Three

Mandatory Group A – Fibre Cable Installation

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
H/618/8296	Health and Safety in Communications Networks	3	Level Three
M/618/8298	Fibre Optics Installation and Testing	5	Level Three
F/618/8306	Optical Fibre and Cable Blowing	5	Level Three

Delivering this Qualification

Becoming a Centre
To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards centre. For more information, head to our website or contact the team on 0151 494 2072

How to Deliver
You can deliver this qualification by completing a New Qualification Request Form via the Open Awards portal. For more information, see the Centre Handbook, or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

Registering Learners
Once you are ready to deliver this qualification, you will need to register your learners in line with the timescales below:

Short courses (15 weeks or less) within 25 working days of the course start date. Full year long courses (over 15 weeks) within 60 working days of the course start date.

You will need to register your learners via the Open Awards portal.

Quality Assurance and Standardisation
Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Ofqual regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Template forms and guidance documents are available via the Open Awards portal.

Centre Staff Requirements
Centres are responsible for ensuring that their staff are suitably skilled and experienced. Tutors/ assessors and internal quality assurance (IQA) staff must have relevant occupational knowledge and/or occupational competence at the same level or higher as the units being delivered.

Centres are responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes.

Training and support
Open Awards offers training and support events in Delivery & Assessment and Quality Assurance. These events are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of these training events are on our website.

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)
All centres delivering Open Awards provision must operate rigorous internal quality assurance systems. A centre must identify how they will internally quality assure and standardise their delivery and assessment before delivering a course.

External Quality Assurance (EQA)
Centre approval compliance monitoring and external quality assurance is carried out by Open Awards' Lead Quality Reviewers/External Quality Assurers who will

confirm that the centre is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust quality assurance systems embedded.

Please refer to Internal and External Quality Assurance within the Centre Handbook.

Standardisation
Centres are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards. Open Awards offers Standardisation events that are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of training and standardisation events can be found on our website.

Further guidance on Quality Assurance and Standardisation please refer to the Centre Handbook

Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)

RPL is a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they may already possess. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

It is the responsibility of the centre to inform Open Awards at registration of any exemptions and/or equivalences for which a claim may be made. These claims will be subject to external verification by the Open Awards' Lead Quality Reviewer for the centre.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on the Open Awards portal.

Health and Safety

Due to the practical requirements of some of the units within this qualification, centres must ensure that appropriate risk assessments are in place for both the activities and individual learners to ensure the learners and staff safety throughout the course. As part of this, centres must ensure that learners and staff have access to appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Appendices and Links

Appendix Name
[Centre Handbook](#)
[Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy](#)
[Equality and Diversity Policy](#)
[Invoicing Policy](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)

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