Who are these NVQs for?

These NVQs are work-oriented qualifications and are suitable for those who undertake administration related activities. They are open to candidates of either gender and there are no entry barriers on grounds of race, creed or previous academic attainment or learning.

What is their purpose?

The aim of these qualifications is to recognise the skills and competences of candidates in the workplace. The qualifications provide individuals with an opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge needed for a career in business and administration. The units encompass a broad range of competencies from the administration sector.

What are the benefits of these NVQs?

Employees will benefit from:
- A clearer understanding of their responsibility within their organisation
- The opportunity to develop new skills
- The recognition of existing skills

Employers will benefit from:
- Improved staff performance and motivation
- Improvements in the quality of service to customers
- The opportunity to improve customer retention levels
What is the structure of these NVQs?

OCR Level 1 NVQ in Business and Administration
To achieve a full award, candidates must complete four units in total from two mandatory units and two optional units.

Mandatory units
101 Carry out your responsibilities at work
102 Work within your business environment

Optional units
103 Welcome visitors
104 Handle mail
105 Store and retrieve information
106 Use IT to exchange information
107 Word processing software
108 Make and receive telephone calls
109 Use office equipment
110 Ensure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety

OCR Level 2 NVQ in Business and Administration
To achieve a full award, candidates must complete five units in total, from two mandatory units and three optional units.

Mandatory units
201 Carry out your responsibilities at work
202 Work within your business environment

Optional units
110 Ensure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety
204 Manage diary systems
205 Organise business travel and accommodation
206 Deal with visitors
207 Process customer financial transactions
208 Operate credit control procedures
209 Store, retrieve and archive information
210 Research and report information
211 Organise and support meetings
212 Use IT systems
213 Use IT to exchange information
214 Word processing software
215 Spreadsheet software
216 Database software
217 Presentation software
218 Specialist or bespoke software
219 Use a telephone system
220 Operate office equipment
221 Prepare text from notes
222 Prepare text from shorthand
223 Prepare text from recorded audio instruction
224 Produce documents
225 Work effectively with other people

OCR Level 3 NVQ in Business and Administration
To achieve a full award, candidates must complete six units in total from two mandatory units and four optional units. At least three optional units must be from group B.

Mandatory units
301 Carry out your responsibilities at work
302 Work within your business environment

Optional units – group A
110 Ensure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety
204 Manage diary systems
205 Organise business travel and accommodation
212 Use IT systems
213 Use IT to exchange information
216 Database software
217 Presentation software
218 Specialist or bespoke software
221 Prepare text from notes

Optional units – group B
303 Supervise an office facility
304 Procure products and services
305 Manage and evaluate customer relations
306 Managing the payroll function
307 Completing year-end procedures
308 Monitor information systems
309 Plan and run projects
310 Research, analyse and report information
311 Plan, organise and support meetings
312 Make a presentation
313 Organise and coordinate events
314 Word processing software
315 Spreadsheet software
316 Website software
317 Artwork and imaging software
318 Design and produce documents
319 Plan and implement innovation and change
320 Develop productive working relationships with colleagues
321 Provide leadership for your team
323 Prepare text from shorthand
324 Prepare text from recorded audio instruction
334 Provide administrative support in schools

OCR Level 4 NVQ in Business and Administration
To achieve a full award, candidates must complete six units in total from two mandatory units and four optional units. At least three optional units must be from group B.

Mandatory units
401 Carry out your responsibilities at work
402 Work within your business environment

Optional units – group A
305 Manage and evaluate customer relations
310 Research, analyse and report information

Optional units – group B
403 Manage an office facility
404 Manage contracts
405 Negotiate and agree budgets
406 Monitor and review the implementation of corporate objectives, strategies and policies
407 Inform and facilitate corporate decision-making
408 Evaluate internal and external factors and promote partnership working
Who is involved in the delivery of these NVQs?

Assessment centre
Any organisation, whether it is a place of employment, college or private training organisation can be approved to offer these qualifications, as long as it meets the criteria set out in the OCR publication ‘Administrative Guide to Verified Qualifications’ (reference code L526). This includes being able to provide suitably occupationally competent assessors and internal verifiers.

Once approved, an assessment centre will register candidates for the NVQ and allocate each candidate an assessor or assessors.

Trainer
The trainer will develop a candidate’s knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the NVQ that is being undertaken.

Trainers will:
• provide opportunities for learning
• provide ongoing mentoring to the candidate, including review and feedback on learning experiences and development of competence
• provide opportunities for a candidate to practice what they have learnt.

The assessment of competence at Levels 1 and 2 can take place at work, or in an approved realistic working environment. The assessment of competence at Levels 3 and 4 must take place at work. The use of simulation is not permitted in the Business and Administration units, however, assessment of simulated activity is permitted in some imported units.

Assessor
The assessor will judge the evidence of a candidate’s performance, knowledge and understanding against the units of competence in order to decide whether the candidate has demonstrated competence. The assessor will have suitable experience and be trained and qualified as an NVQ assessor. An assessor may be a candidate’s line manager, a tutor at college, or someone specially appointed to this role. Assessments may also be carried out by a team of assessors.

The roles of trainer and assessor are inextricably linked and may be carried out by the same person, however, training activities must be clearly separated from assessment and only assessed evidence of competence should be presented as evidence towards the NVQ. The roles of assessor and trainer must be separate and preferably, where an individual has advised on a candidate’s development they should not be that candidate’s only assessor.

Internal verifier
Each assessor’s work must be checked and confirmed by an internal verifier who is usually a member of staff at the assessment centre. The internal verifier checks and standardises assessment decisions made by the assessors in the centre.

For full details of the experience and qualifications needed by assessors and internal verifiers, please refer to the Business and Administration NVQ centre handbook.

External verifier
The external verifier checks the assessment and internal verification decisions and processes made in the centre and authorises the claims for certificates. The external verifier is appointed by OCR.

How are these NVQs assessed?
Like all NVQs, these qualifications are competence-based. This means that they are linked to a person’s ability to competently perform a range of tasks connected with their work.

To gain an NVQ, a candidate must achieve the level of competence described in the NVQ units of competence.

What to do next?
To seek approval to offer the qualification(s), please apply on-line following the step-by-step guide to applying for approval for vocational qualifications indicated on our ‘Centre Approval’ webpage.

You might be interested to know that OCR staff are available to help with any aspect of setting up a vocational assessment centre. Through an advisory telephone call or a centre visit, we can assist, not only with the completion of the form, but also provide advice on the following areas:

• identifying potential candidates and marketing opportunities
• meeting OCR requirements
• identifying resourcing levels, both in terms of staff and equipment
• the documents you might need for the benefit of the candidates and a smooth running centre operation

For further information, please get in touch with our Customer Contact Centre by phone: (024 7685 1509); email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk; or in writing: OCR Customer Contact Centre, OCR, Westwood Way, Coventry, CV4 8JQ.

A summary of how the approval process works is provided in our Admin Guide for Vocational Qualifications (publication ref. code: A850). Our Fees List contains the charges for centre evaluation, candidate entries and certification. Both documents are available to download from our website www.ocr.org.uk
• The standards and guidance on implementation of the OCR Business and Administration NVQs are available to view and download from OCR’s website: www.ocr.org.uk.

• Full details of how to apply are given in the OCR Administrative Guide to Verified Qualifications (L526) which is included in the Centre Approval Pack, which is available from the Customer Customer Contact Centre. This publication may be downloaded from the OCR website.

What other related OCR qualifications are available?

Other qualifications offered by OCR which may be of interest to you, include:

- Entry Level Certificate in Office Practice
- OCR Levels 1, 2 and 3 Certificates in Administration
- OCR Levels 2 and 3 Diplomas in Administration
- OCR Levels 2 and 3 Awards in Administration
- OCR Entry Level Award in Initial Text Processing
- OCR Levels 1, 2 and 3 Certificates in Text Processing
- OCR Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 NVQs in Customer Service
- OCR Levels 2 and 3 Certificates in Customer Service
- OCR Levels 1, 2 and 3 NVQs for IT Users
- OCR Levels 1, 2 and 3 Certificates for IT Users (CLAiT, CLAiT Plus and CLAiT Advanced)
- OCR Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 NVQs in Management
- OCR Nationals at levels 1, 2 and 3 (across a range of sectors)

Please contact the Customer Contact Centre if you would like further information on any of the above qualifications.

Who developed the standards for this qualification?

The Council for Administration (CfA) is the standards setting body responsible for development of national occupational standards which these qualifications are based on.

The Council for Administration
6 Graphite Square
Vauxhall Walk
London
SE11 5EE
Web: www.cfa.uk.com