

GCE in Health & Social Care

advancing learning, changing lives

Student Guide

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will benefit most from a GCE in Health and Social Care if you have one or more of the following:

- a profile of GCSEs Grades A* - C
- other level 2 qualifications such as an Intermediate GNVQ in Health and Social Care; an Edexcel BTEC First Diploma in Caring or Early Years
- related work experience

You should also be keen to develop an understanding of the diverse and complex nature of the health and social care sector.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You will enjoy this course if you would like to develop:

- a broad understanding of the sector
- skills as well as technical knowledge
- an awareness of particular groups and their needs by focussing on Health, Early Years (Care and Education), Care of Older People, or Individuals with Specific Needs

Is the qualification structured like other GCEs?

Yes, the qualification has an AS/A2 structure. AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is the first half of the Advanced GCE course. It is a stepping stone to the full Advanced GCE qualification. You can take the AS on its own, if you and your teacher agree that this is best for you. You can also decide at the end of the AS course to continue with the course and take the A2 units for the full Advanced GCE qualification.

You can study for:

- A Single Award AS GCE (3 units): Units 1, 2, 3
- A Double Award AS GCE (6 units): Units 1 - 6
- A Single Award Advanced GCE (6 units): Units 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9
- A Double Award Advanced GCE (12 units): all units

What will I learn about on this course?

In the AS units you will learn about:

- Human Growth and Development - Unit 1
- Communication and Values - Unit 2
- Positive Care Environments - Unit 3
- Social Aspects and Lifestyle Choices - Unit 4
- Activities for Health and Well-being - Unit 5
- Public Health - Unit 6

In the A2 units you will learn about:

- Meeting Individual Needs - Unit 7
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing - Unit 8
- Investigating Disease - Unit 9
- Using and Understanding Research - Unit 10
- Social Issues and Welfare Needs - Unit 11
- Understanding Human Behaviour - Unit 12

How will I be assessed?

You will have a written examination in the form of a question and answer booklet in Units 1,4,7,12. Each examination will last one and a half hours. For all other units you will be assessed by coursework.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The GCE in Health and Social Care qualifies for UCAS points so if you complete it successfully you could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in related subjects. You could also go on to relevant employment within health and social care services.

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