Level 3 Extended Diploma in Cyber Security
Qualification Number: 603/6567/5

Qualification Overview

Title: AIM Qualifications Level 3 Extended Diploma in Cyber Security

Qualification Number: 603/6567/5

Level: Level 3

Credit Value: 180 credits

Guided Learning Hours: 1080 hours

Total Qualification Time: 1800 hours

Qualification Objective: This qualification has been designed to provide learning and skills in Cyber Security for those considering pursuing a career in this sector. Through a range of Mandatory units including Computer Systems, the Impact of Cyber Security, Information Technology for Business and the Internet of Everything learners will be aware of the dangers from and impacts of cyber security in a business environment.

Progression Routes: On successful completion of the AIM Qualifications Level 3 Extended Diploma in Cyber Security, learners may progress to similar learning at the same or a higher level, or directly into employment in the cyber security field.

Entry requirements: Learners must have an interest in computer networks and associated technology and should be working at Level 2.

Assessment method(s):   Assessment is through a Portfolio of Evidence/Workbook.

How is the qualification assessed?

The assessment process is as follows:

Internal Assessment by Portfolio of Evidence

Where the assessment method for the qualification is by internally set assessments (Portfolio of Evidence), then centres are free to devise their own assessments for the qualification/unit.

- All assessments should be designed in such a way as to minimise the requirement for Reasonable Adjustments to be made.
- Centre devised assessments must allow learners to meet all of the requirements of the assessment criteria for each unit. Assessments must not require learners to produce evidence above and beyond that stipulated in the Assessment Criteria.
- Centres must then have these assessments approved by their IQA.

When devising assessments, centres may choose from a range of assessment methods but where assessment guidance is provided within a unit this must be adhered to unless otherwise agreed with Aim Qualifications.

Assessment methods must be valid, fair, reliable and safe leading to authentic, sufficient and current evidence produced by the candidate.

Holistic assessment is good practice wherever possible and permitted by the assessment strategy for the qualification if this exists.

Other guidance and sample documentation is available to recognised centres covering: planning assessment; recording achievement; planning, carrying out and documenting IQA.

Reasonable Adjustment and Special Considerations

Reasonable adjustments and Special Considerations are available for all assessments, irrespective of whether they are internally or externally set.

Where a learner or group of learners may not be able to access the assessment without Reasonable Adjustments, centres should ensure that they apply in good time for relevant reasonable adjustments to be made, using the AIM Qualifications *Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy* which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Qualification size

About the RQF

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) provides a single, simple system for cataloguing all qualifications regulated by Ofqual. Qualifications are indexed by their level and size.

Levels indicate the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels supported by three "entry levels".

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in term of Total Qualification Time (TQT). The part of the TQT spent being taught or supervised is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

GLH are defined as the time a learner spends being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training. This includes guidance or supervision time:

a) With the simultaneous physical presence of the learner and that person, or
b) Remotely by means of simultaneous electronic communication.

It does not include the number of hours a learner spends in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Total Qualification Time (TQT)

TQT is comprised of the following two elements:

a) The number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
b) An estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

Rules of Combination and level for this qualification

To achieve the AIM Qualifications Level 3 Extended Diploma in Cyber Security, learners must achieve the 180 credits from Mandatory Group A.

There are no **Optional** units for this qualification.

Mandatory Group A

Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit code	Unit reference number
Advanced Programming	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/001	M/618/4459
Client-Side Scripting	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/002	T/618/4544
Computer and Mobile Networking	3	10	60	100	CK8/3/NQ/001	H/618/4460
Computer Architecture and Operating Systems	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/003	L/618/4534
Computer Game Development	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/004	R/618/4535
Computer Networking	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/005	H/618/4538
Computer Systems	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/006	Y/618/4536
Database Design and Development	3	10	60	100	CK3/3/NQ/001	M/618/4543
Ethical Hacking and Cyber Security Methods	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/007	K/618/4461
Impact of Cyber Security	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/008	K/618/4542
Information Technology for Business	3	10	60	100	CP0/3/NQ/002	H/618/4457
Internet of Everything	3	10	60	100	CR1/3/NQ/001	A/618/4531

Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT	Unit code	Unit reference number
Mathematics for Computing	3	10	60	100	RB8/3/NQ/001	D/618/4537
Principles of Computer Science	3	10	60	100	CK1/3/NQ/001	K/618/4539
Security Engineering	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/009	H/618/4541
Server Management	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/010	M/618/4462
Server-Sided Scripting	3	10	60	100	CM4/3/NQ/011	K/618/4458
Software Engineering	3	10	60	100	CL4/3/NQ/001	D/618/4540

Level Descriptors

Units are assigned a level based on current RQF guidance issued by Ofqual.

Level	Knowledge Descriptor (the holder…)	Skills Descriptor (the holder can…)
Level 3	Has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. Can interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas. Is aware of the nature of the area of study or work. Is aware of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.	Identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. Use appropriate investigation to inform actions. Review how effective methods and actions have been.

Extracted from 'After the QCF A New Qualification Framework' October 2015

Requirements to deliver the qualification

To offer this qualification, centres must ensure that tutors: hold or are working towards:

- A relevant teaching or assessing qualification at Level 3 or above such as the Level 3 Certificate in Education and Training
- A relevant qualification in Computer Science/Cyber Security at Level 4 or above, or equivalent demonstrable professional experience in the field
- A familiarity with Linux based Operating Systems, Penetration testing tools, Cyber defence methods and technology will be needed for some units

Centres must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurance person who:

- Holds or is working towards a Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices or its equivalent
- Has substantial experience of working in or assessing qualifications in Cyber Security
- Is familiar with the assessment requirements of the qualification for which they are the Internal Quality Assurer

Support for centres

AIM Qualifications provide all of our centres with on-going support and advice on the use of AIM Qualifications units and qualifications, including the requirements for assessment.

Centre responsibilities

Each centre should identify a centre contact who will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the centre meets all the AIM Qualifications requirements for centre recognition and adheres to all policies and procedures.
- AIM Qualifications provision within the centre
- ensuring all procedures relating to the delivery of the qualification operate effectively in the centre
- ensuring all relevant AIM Qualifications documentation is distributed as required within the centre and that the security requirements for external assessment are adhered to, where applicable.

The information provided in this qualification specification is accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change. AIM Qualifications *will occasionally update qualification information, so please refer to the 'AIM Qualifications' page of our website to view any updates, including qualification end dates and the latest versions of our qualification specifications.*

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