

Level 2 Foundation Certificate Digital Systems and Data

A quick reference guide to who it's for, what learners will study and how this qualification is assessed.

Draft specification | **First teach: September 2027**

Starting	Size	Age range	Funding
September 2027	400 hours total 300 GLH	16 - 18 & 19+	Eligible

Is it right for my learners?

The Level 2 Foundation qualification in Digital Systems and Data is designed for learners who want to access broad, applied learning before progressing onto Level 3 study. Learners benefit from further teaching and preparation before deciding on more focused progression paths in Digital Systems.

How is this qualification assessed?

This qualification combines practical, centre-assessed work with externally marked examination.

Grading

Unclassified — Pass — Merit — Distinction

What is being studied?

The qualification covers key principles that support effective digital practice, including data interpretation and visualisation, computational and systems thinking, secure configuration, programming development and testing, hardware and software configuration, and the selection and evaluation of reliable digital sources.

There is no optional content within the qualification.

LO1	Data Analysis and Visualisation	→	50 GLH
LO2	Digital Systems Configuration and Security	→	60 GLH
LO3	Programming Solution Development and Testing	→	75 GLH
LO4	Hardware and Software Configuration	→	75 GLH
LO5	Digital Research and Evidence-Based Recommendations	→	40 GLH

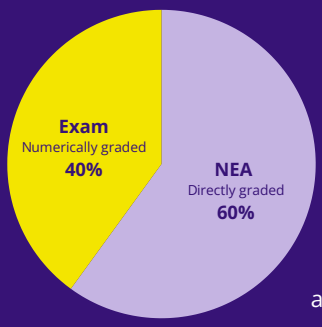
When does assessment happen?

Spring
NEA takes place
17 hours
Directly graded

April
Written examination
85 minutes
60 marks
Numerically marked

May
External moderation of NEA

Marked by AQA



Centre assessed

Good to know

*NEA - Non-exam assessment
*GLH - Guided learning hours
*LO - Learning Outcome

Information on applicable performance measures is available from the Department for Education.