



Explorers

Qualification Specification

© NCC Education Limited, 2022

All Rights Reserved

The copyright in this document is vested in NCC Education Limited. The document must not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, or used for manufacturing purposes, except with the prior written permission of NCC Education Limited and then only on condition that this notice is included in any such reproduction.

Published by: NCC Education Limited, Second Floor, Adamson House, Towers Business Park, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2YY UK

Tel: +44 (0) 161 438 6200 Fax: +44 (0) 161 438 6240 Email: admissions@nccedu.com
<http://www.nccedu.com>

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| About NCC Education | 4 |
| Why choose this qualification? | 4 |
| Structure and Assessment for the Qualification | 5 |
| Assessment objectives..... | 5 |
| Overview of Digi-Qualifications Assessment | 5 |
| Accessibility of Assessment | 6 |
| Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration | 6 |
| Supervision and Authentication of Assessment..... | 6 |
| Administration | 7 |
| Assessment Cycles..... | 7 |
| Language of Assessment..... | 7 |
| Candidates..... | 7 |
| Qualification and Unit Entry Requirements | 7 |
| Candidate Entry | 7 |
| Syllabus | 8 |
| Syllabus overview | 8 |
| Results and Certificates | 9 |
| Further Information | 9 |
| Appendix 1 Qualification Documentation | 9 |

About NCC Education

NCC Education is a UK awarding body, active in the UK and internationally. Originally part of the UK National Computing Centre, NCC Education started offering Computing qualifications in 1976 and from 1997 developed its portfolio to include Business qualifications, Computing qualifications for school children and a range of Foundation qualifications.

With Centres around the world, NCC Education aims to employ the latest technologies for learning, assessment and support. NCC Education is regulated by Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, see www.ofqual.gov.uk).

Why choose this qualification?

NCC Education's Digi-Explorers:

- is suitable for candidates at **Key Stage 1** of the English national curriculum (ages 5–7), as well as older (including adult) learners
- introduces students to **key concepts of digital citizenship and online safety** – this means that candidates will gain the core skills and understanding of the online world which will allow them to become safe and responsible members of online communities
- prepares candidates to be part of their country's **next generation of digital innovators** – Digi-Explorers not only helps to prepare candidates to become critical consumers of hardware and software but also allows them to gain the basic knowledge required to write and test simple programs, which will lay the foundation for them to become active producers of new and innovative software
- provides teachers with a **fresh and innovative syllabus** containing all the concepts, activities and resources to be able to deliver with confidence the new programming elements of the English national curriculum
- is **quality assured** by a UK awarding body with considerable expertise in providing high-quality IT/Computing qualifications and programmes
- sits within NCC Education's well-established suite of Computing and Business qualifications, which are **recognised and valued** by employers and universities worldwide

Structure and Assessment for the Qualification

Assessment objectives

Digi-Explorers is assessed by a single online multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination once candidates have completed their preparation. Prior to taking the online MCQ examination, candidates must also complete a class activity assigned by NCC Education. All Learning Outcomes are assessed through the combination of the online MCQ examination and the class activity.

The online MCQ examination tests the theoretical aspects of the qualification's Learning Outcomes and the class activity focuses on the practical elements. This means that candidates can successfully demonstrate their knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter in addition to computational problem-solving and practical skills.

Overview of Digi-Qualifications Assessment

| Qualification | Online MCQ Examination: Theoretical Component |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Level 1 – Digi-Explorers | 40 multiple-choice questions with a time-limit of 60 minutes |
| Level 2 – Digi-Navigators | 40 multiple-choice questions with a time-limit of 60 minutes |
| Level 3 – Digi-Trailblazers | 40 multiple-choice questions with a time-limit of 60 minutes |

An online MCQ examination is a time-constrained assessment that will take place during specified weeks in an NCC Education Centre. Randomised questions are generated from the questions bank to minimise malpractice.

The 'Theoretical Component' of the online MCQ examination refers to questions which require candidates to recall relevant information and choose the correct answer online.

The 'Practical Component' of the class activity refers to a computer (lab) based task or tasks which require candidates to individually produce a particular digital artefact or artefacts.

Candidates will get their results from their respective centre. The result is calculated based wholly on the online MCQ examination. The 'Practical Component' which is performed in class must, be completed prior to candidates taking the online exam as it evidences their ability to apply the knowledge gained from the course. The practical components require candidates to produce a digital artefact and centre staff are required to keep a copy of candidates' work as proof of completion.

A specimen of online MCQ examination and answers are available on NCC Education's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for Centres to access.

Accessibility of Assessment

We review our guidelines on assessment practices to ensure compliance with equality law and to confirm assessment for our components is fit for purpose.

Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration

NCC Education is committed to providing reasonable adjustments and special consideration to ensure disabled candidates, or those facing exceptional circumstances, are not disadvantaged in demonstrating their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Further information on NCC Education's arrangements for giving reasonable adjustments and special consideration can be found in the NCC Education *Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy*.

Supervision and Authentication of Assessment

Centres are required to organise all assessment activities for this specification according to NCC Education's Policies and Regulations.

Candidates' identity and the authenticity of their work (class activity) is verified to reflect the standard achieved by candidates, relevant to the specification Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria. Detailed guidance on this process is given in NCC Education's *Assessment Instructions*.

Administration

Assessment Cycles

Four assessment cycles are offered throughout the year, in March, June, September and December. Centres must make sure candidates have completed the assigned class activity (practical component) prior to taking part in the online MCQ examination.

Examination dates are published in the NCC Education *Activity Schedule*, which is provided to Centres by NCC Education Centre Support. It is also available on NCC Education's Candidate Registration Portal.

The *Activity Schedule* also gives the key dates for registering candidates for assessment cycles, and the dates when Centres can expect to complete the Digi e-assessment and the assessment results from NCC Education.

Language of Assessment

All assessment is conducted in English.

Candidates

NCC Education's qualifications are available to those Centre candidates who satisfy the entry requirements as stated in this specification.

Qualification and Unit Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements

The Digi-Explorers syllabus and assessment is suitable for candidates aged 5–7 (at Key Stage 1 of the English national curriculum) as well as older (including adult) learners.

It is expected that candidates who are non-native English speakers are able to cope with the demands of preparing for and taking the Digi-Explorers assessment in English.

Candidate Entry

Candidates are registered by Centres for assessment via NCC Education's Candidate Registration Portal.

Further details can be found in NCC Education's *Centre Handbook*.

Syllabus

Syllabus overview

The Digi-Explorers syllabus contains the following topics, topic sections and Learning Outcomes. Syllabus topics may be covered in any order (as best suits the requirements of the candidates and their wider curriculum).

| Syllabus content | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Topic | Topic Section | Learning Outcomes |
| Digital Citizenship | Working with technology safely and respectfully | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how to be safe and respectful online. |
| | Working with the World Wide Web | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how the World Wide Web can be used as a tool for research. Use a web browser to view and navigate web pages. |
| | Technology beyond school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways that technology is used outside school. |
| Digital Design and Creation | Working with digital images | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture still and moving images. Use tools in paint packages to draw an image to convey meaning. |
| | Working with video animation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use captured images to make an animation. |
| | Working with sound | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use recorded sound files to communicate meaning. |
| Presenting Information | Working with text | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a range of text input devices effectively. |
| | Working with digital presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use text, images and sound to create simple linear presentations for a purpose. Present information clearly and appropriately using a range of tools. |
| Handling Data | Working with data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sort data in a range of ways to ask and answer simple questions. |
| Programming | Working with algorithms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the need for precise instructions to implement an algorithm. Recognise the actions that will result from a sequence of instructions. |
| | Working to create and debug programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise simple programs. Predict what will happen if changes are made. |

Results and Certificates

An overall numerical mark is awarded to candidates. The pass marks for Digi Explorers is 40%. All candidates who obtain marks below 40% are classed as *failed* in the examination.

The Digi e-assessment is auto marked by the VLE with grading as below:

- 0% – 39 % - Fail
- 40 % – 59 % - Pass
- 60 % – 69 % - Merit
- 70% and above - Distinction

After each assessment cycle, results slips are issued (in an electronic format) which detail the final mark. Electronic certificates will be issued for the centre to print.

Further Information

For more information about any of NCC Education's products, please contact customer.support@nccedu.com or, alternatively, visit www.nccedu.com to find out more about our suite of high-quality British qualifications.

Appendix 1 Qualification Documentation

The following NCC Education documentation has been referred to in this specification:

- Centre Handbook
- Assessment Instructions
- Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy

All documentation, together with access to NCC Education's online resources, is available to Centres and (where applicable) candidates who have registered for assessment.