

ABC Awards – a guide to our Practical Languages VRQs



ABC Awards (ABC) suite of Practical Languages vocationally related qualifications are aimed at candidates across all levels and abilities. They are all accredited by QCA and therefore eligible for LSC funding.

These qualifications are aimed at a wide target market and provide progression routes through ABC's own portfolio and onto other vocational/national qualifications.

Vocational qualifications give candidates the ability to work individually and as part of a team, be competent in communication, IT and numeracy skills and have vocational experience in a particular sector, giving them the knowledge and skills to succeed in their chosen industry.

The National Languages Strategy, set out in 'Languages for All: Languages for Life' talks about

- increasing the number of people studying languages
- making language learning more accessible
- bringing achievement within the reach of more people
- raising the status of learner achievement

The ABC qualifications in Practical Languages endeavour to achieve these aims. The range of shorter awards encourages learners to take smaller bite-size chunks of learning in skills that are

- more relevant to them in the workplace
- more suited to individual goals
- more manageable in terms of time
- more accessible to a range of target groups.

Offered in up to 17 languages at some levels, the qualifications encourage the take-up of minority languages. Entry level and level 1 qualifications offer recognition of achievement below GCSE and encourage progression at a pace more suited to the individual needs of the learner. Recommended guided learning hours are adjusted for defined language groups.

Entry Qualifications*

The **Entry 2** qualifications are taster courses for the absolute beginner and offer an introduction to basic language skills where students begin to operate with key words. Language will be highly predictable. Each is a single unit Award and has been allocated an average **15 guided learning hours (glh)** for completion but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 10. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian and Urdu**, or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 20 glh depending on the language and the target group.

Candidates who successfully complete the two Awards will achieve a Double Award. Candidates may enter for the Double Award or for single Awards. The Double Award has been allocated an average **30 glh** but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 20. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 40 glh depending on the language and target group.

- ABC Entry Level Award in Speaking and Listening in another Language (Entry 2)
- ABC Entry Level Award in Reading and Writing in another Language (Entry 2)
- ABC Entry Level Double Award in Practical Languages (all four skills at Entry 2)

The **Entry 3** qualifications are designed to extend those basic skills enabling students to operate with prescribed questions and answers in familiar situations. Language will be predictable but variation will be introduced. Each single Award has been allocated an average **40 glh** for completion but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 30. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 60 glh depending on the language and target group. Candidates who successfully complete the two Awards will achieve the Double Award. Candidates may enter for the Double Award or for single Awards. The Double Award has been allocated an average **90 glh** but the minimum number of recommended hours for most languages is 60. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 120 glh depending on the language and target group.

- ABC Entry Level Award in Speaking and Listening in another Language (Entry 3)
- ABC Entry Level Award in Reading and Writing in another Language (Entry 3)
- ABC Entry Level Double Award in Practical Languages (all four skills at Entry 3).

Successful students at Entry 2 or 3 have a number of progression routes open to them:

from Entry 2

- to further study at ABC Entry 3 or equivalent
- into employment where basic linguistic abilities would develop personal confidence.

from Entry 3

- to further study at ABC Level 1 or an equivalent Level 1 qualification
- into employment and / or to enhance job performance e.g. where companies have branches overseas / sell overseas, support for the tourist industry.

Level 1 Qualifications*

The level 1 qualifications extend skills, albeit still within a limited range, to grammatical structures that are prescribed and rehearsed, allowing learners to operate at a level where basics are extended to include descriptions and other timeframes. Language will become more natural and, therefore, less predictable. Each single Award has been allocated an average **40 guided learning hours (glh)** for completion but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 30. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 60 glh

depending on the target group. Candidates who successfully complete the two single Awards will achieve the Double Award. Candidates may enter for the Double Award or for single Awards. The Double Award has been allocated an average **90 glhs** but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 60. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 120 glh depending on the target group.

- ABC Level 1 Award in Speaking and Listening in another Language
- ABC Level 1 Award in Reading and Writing in another Language
- ABC Level 1 Double Award in Practical Languages (all four skills)

Level 2 Qualifications*

The level 2 qualifications prepare learners to cope with some non-routine situations where some manipulation of prescribed phrases and grammatical structures may be required. Sentence structure will become more complex offering details, opinions and extended descriptions. Language in the main, will be fluent, albeit standard with predictability decreasing. Each single Award has been allocated **40 guided learning hours (glh)** for completion but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 30. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 60 glh depending on the target group. Candidates who successfully complete the two single Awards will achieve the Double Award. Candidates may enter for the Double Award or for single Awards. The Double Award has been allocated **90 glh** but the minimum number of hours recommended for most languages is 60. **Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Urdu** or any other languages that do not use roman script will require up to 120 glh depending on the target group.

- ABC Level 2 Award in Speaking and Listening in another Language
- ABC Level 2 Award in Reading and Writing in another Language
- ABC Level 2 Double Award in Practical Languages (all four skills)

The successful student at Level 1 has the following progression routes open to them:

- into employment where linguistic abilities would enhance job performance
- ABC Level 2 or an equivalent Level 2 qualification.

The successful candidate at Level 2 has the following routes open to them:

- into employment where linguistic abilities would enhance job performance
- A/S Level
- ABC Level 3 Certificate in Practical Languages
- entry to other advanced study.

Level 3 Qualification

The ABC Level 3 Awards and Double Award in Practical Languages complete a flexible suite of language provision (from Entry 2 to Level 3) catering for the linguistic needs of a wide range of candidates. They provide further progression in languages within the adult education sector and provide access to higher education. This route offers an alternative pathway to general language qualifications and contributes significantly to national provision.

The qualification comprises two Awards and one Double Award:

Level 3 Award in Speaking and Listening in another Language
Level 3 Award in Reading and Writing in another Language
Level 3 Double Award in Practical Languages.

Each award is made up of three mandatory units, covering **two** of the **four language skills** and a **minimum of four topics (two mandatory and two optional)**. Candidates wishing to cover more than 4 topics may do so.

The Double Award comprises six mandatory units, covering all four language skills and a minimum of four topics (two mandatory and two optional).

Languages currently available are listed below. However centres are advised to check availability with ABC Awards Nottingham office prior to applying for approval, since resources can change from year to year:

French
German
Greek
Italian
Spanish

ABC Awards (ABC) is a major provider of Vocationally Related, and National Vocational Qualifications in the UK. We work with representatives from Sector Skills Councils, QCA and industry bodies to ensure that qualifications are developed to the standards required for the National Qualifications Framework.

ABC's portfolio contains over 250 accredited qualifications and there is the opportunity for all schools, colleges and training organisations to become approved as centres to offer any number of ABC's qualifications.

ABC has a broad choice of qualifications, from Entry Level to Level 6, all offering stepping stones to success. Each qualification is assessed in a rigorous but user-friendly manner and most are in manageable bites of learning. It is ABC's aim to open up opportunities for students and to widen participation in education.

If you would like further information on any ABC qualifications and services, visit our web site or contact the ABC Marketing team at:

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