

This qualification specification covers the following qualifications:

Qualification Number	Qualification Title
601/2442/8	Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness

Version and date	Change detail	Section/Page Reference
1.0 (November 2020)	n/a	n/a
1.1 (April 2021)	Qualification approval from Qualifications Wales removed.	Pg7
1.2 (Feb 2023)	Removed address and changed back cover	Page 20
1.3 (August 2024)	Withdrawal of qualification 601/2443/X - Gateway Qualifications Level 3 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness	n/a

About this qualification specification

This qualification specification is intended for tutors, internal quality assurers, centre quality managers and other staff within Gateway Qualifications recognised centres and/or prospective centres.

It sets out what is required of the learner in order to achieve the qualifications. It also contains information specific to managing and delivering the qualifications including specific quality assurance requirements.

The guide should be read in conjunction with the Gateway Qualifications Centre Handbook and other publications available on the website which contain more detailed guidance on assessment and quality assurance practice.

In order to offer these qualifications you must be a Gateway Qualifications recognised centre and be approved to offer the qualifications.

If your centre is not yet recognised, please contact our Development Team to discuss becoming a Gateway Qualifications Recognised Centre:

Telephone: 01206 911211

Email: enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk

Website: <https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/advice-guidance/delivering-our-qualifications/become-recognised-centre/>

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1. Qualification Information

1.1 About the qualifications

The qualifications have been approved by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.

The qualifications have been developed with the support of We Are With You, the UK's leading specialist drug and alcohol treatment charity. They combine an introductory knowledge of drug and alcohol misuse with an understanding of the key principles and values that should underpin the support offered to people misusing substances.

1.2 Purpose

The qualification purpose of the Gateway Qualifications suite of Substance Misuse Awareness qualifications is to enable learners to develop a knowledge of substance misuse and an understanding of people who misuse substances.

1.3 Funding

For information on potential sources of funding in England please visit the Education and Skills Funding Agency:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/education-and-skills-funding-agency>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/qualifications-approved-for-public-funding>

<https://hub.fasst.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

1.4 Geographical coverage

These qualifications are approved by Ofqual to be offered in England.

If a centre based outside England would like to offer these qualifications, they should make an enquiry to Gateway Qualifications. The qualifications are not available for delivery by centres based in Northern Ireland.

1.5 Progression opportunities

The qualifications support progression into a range of job roles where learners are likely to come into contact with people who are misusing substances. They may also aid progression to employment roles with a specific focus on supporting substance misusers and to Level 3 substance misuse qualifications, such as the Gateway Qualifications Certificate in Tackling Substance Misuse, also developed with Addaction support.

1.6 Equality, diversity and inclusion

It is Gateway Qualifications' aim that there shall be equal opportunities within this organisation and in all the services it provides and within its recognised centres and via the

services they provide and so meet the organisation's legal responsibilities to prevent discrimination.

In particular it is the organisation's intention that there should be no discrimination on the grounds of a protected characteristic including age, disability, gender assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation. It is acknowledged that this is not an exhaustive list.

2. Learner Entry Requirements

2.1 Key information

Qualification Titles	
Age	The approved age range for these qualifications is 18+ and 19+.
Prior qualifications or units	There is no requirement for learners to have achieved prior qualifications.
Prior skills/knowledge/understanding	There is no requirement for learners to have prior skills, knowledge or understanding.
Restrictions	There are no restrictions to entry.
Additional requirements/guidance	There are no additional rules or guidance regarding learner entry requirements.

2.2 Access to qualifications for learners with disabilities or specific needs

Gateway Qualifications and recognised centres have a responsibility to ensure that the process of assessment is robust and fair and allows the learner to show what they know and can do without compromising the assessment criteria.

Gateway Qualification has a duty to permit a reasonable adjustment where an assessment arrangement would put a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled. Please refer to [Section 4.5 Access Arrangement, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations](#) for further details

2.3 Recruiting learners with integrity

Centres must recruit learners with integrity. They must ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification and that the qualification will meet their needs.

Centres must assess each potential learner and make justifiable and professional judgements about their potential to successfully complete the assessment and achieve the qualification. Such an assessment must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to the qualification.

3 Qualification Details

3.1 Achievement methodology

The qualification will be awarded to learners who successfully achieve an approved combination of units through a Portfolio of Evidence that has been successfully verified and monitored through Gateway Qualifications' Quality Assurance process. Achievement is therefore determined by successful completion of unit assessment with no further requirement for additional/summative assessment.

3.2 Qualification size

Qualification Title	Total Qualification Time	Guided Learning	Credit Value
Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness	80	66	8

Total Qualification Time is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could be reasonably expected to be required for a Learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of the qualification.

Total Qualification Time is comprised of the following two elements:

- the number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and
- an estimate of the number of hours a Learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place 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.

3.3 Qualification structure

The qualification requirements are provided below.

The knowledge, skills and understanding that will be assessed as part of the qualification are set out within unit specifications. Unit contents, including the learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria, are published on the Gateway Qualifications website and are also available to download from the qualification library in the online system Prism.

For information on Recognition of Prior Learning/Exempt and Equivalent units please see section **3.4 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness

Learners must achieve 3 mandatory units totalling 8 credits.

Mandatory Group

Unit Number	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
L/618/3531	Alcohol Awareness	2	3	24
M/505/8639	Drug Awareness	2	3	24
K/505/8641	Key Principles and Values for Working with People who Misuse Substances	2	3	18

3.4 Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) provides learners and Centres with an alternative assessment method by which a learner's previous achievements can meet the assessment requirements for a unit/qualification through the knowledge, understanding or skills that they already possess and so, do not need to develop these through a course of learning.

It enables the recognition of achievement from a range of activities using any valid assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given unit or qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable to contribute to a unit, units or a whole qualification according to the RPL criteria for a given qualification.

The process of Recognition for Prior Learning is not applicable to these qualifications.

Qualification Number	Qualification Title	RPL Permitted
601/2442/8	Gateway Qualifications Level 2 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness	No

Centres should refer to the Gateway Qualifications' Recognition of Prior Learning policy and follow the process available on the website.

3.5 Links to other qualifications

There are no direct links to other qualifications.

4 Assessment

4.1 Assessment overview

Should a learner not achieve the required standard to pass an assessment, further teaching and learning should take place before attempting the assessment again.

4.2 Assessment format

The method of assessment for the qualifications is through a portfolio of evidence.

4.3 Assessment language

The qualifications are assessed in English only.

4.4 Support materials and resources

In addition to this qualification specification, the following resources are available on the Gateway Qualifications website:

- Centre Handbook

4.5 Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations

Gateway Qualifications and recognised centres have a responsibility to ensure that the process of assessment is robust and fair and allows the learner to show what they know and can do without compromising the assessment criteria. Gateway Qualifications understands its requirement as an awarding organisation to make reasonable adjustments where a learner, who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled.

Gateway Qualifications has identified reasonable adjustments permissible as detailed below. A reasonable adjustment is unique to an individual and therefore may not be included in the list of available access arrangements.

Centres do not need to apply to Gateway Qualifications for approval of reasonable adjustments unless adaptation of externally set assessments is required.

Learners can have access to all forms of equipment, software and practical assistance, such as a reader or a scribe that reflect their normal way of working within the centre. However, such adjustments must not affect the reliability or validity of assessment outcomes or give the candidate an assessment advantage over other candidates undertaking the same or similar assessments.

The following adaptations are examples of what may be considered for the purposes of facilitating access, as long as they do not impact on any competence standards being tested:

- adapting assessment materials;
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes;
- adaptation to equipment;
- assessment material in an enlarged format or Braille;
- assessment material on coloured paper or in audio format;
- British Sign Language (BSL);
- changing or adapting the assessment method;
- changing usual assessment arrangements;
- extra time, e.g. assignment extensions;
- language modified assessment material;
- practical assistant;
- prompter;
- providing assistance during assessment;
- reader;
- scribe;
- transcript;
- use of assistive software;
- using assistive technology;
- use of CCTV, coloured overlays, low vision aids;
- use of a different assessment location;
- use of ICT/responses using electronic devices.

It is important to note that not all the adjustments (as above) will be reasonable, permissible or practical in particular situations. The learner may not need, nor be allowed the same adjustment for all assessments.

Learners should be fully involved in any decisions about adjustments/adaptations. This will ensure that individual needs can be met, whilst still bearing in mind the specified assessment criteria for a particular qualification.

All reasonable adjustments made by the centre must be recorded on the Gateway Qualifications' Reasonable Adjustments Form and should be made available to Gateway Qualifications upon request. Guidance on the process for applying for formal adjustments can be found on the Forms and Guidance page of Gateway Qualifications' website.

All adjustments to assessment/s must be authorised by the centre's named Quality Assurance nominee or a member of staff with delegated authority where a centre is permitted to make reasonable adjustments, i.e. for internally marked assessments.

Centres should keep records of adjustments they have permitted and those they have requested from Gateway Qualifications. These records should normally be kept for 3 years following the assessment to which they apply.

It is recommended that centres nominate members of staff to take responsibility for demonstrating the implementation and recording of adjustments to assessments for monitoring by Gateway Qualifications or the regulatory authorities.

Special Considerations

Requests for special consideration should be submitted as soon as possible. Please refer to the [Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration Policy](#).

5 Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

5.1 Centre Recognition

Both centre recognition and qualification approval must be gained before centres are permitted to deliver these qualifications.

Guidance on the centre recognition and qualification approval processes is available on the website: <https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/advice-guidance/help-admin-tasks/centre-recognition/>

5.2 Centre requirements

Centres must ensure that they have the appropriate resources in place when delivering performance units from vocational areas.

In the delivery of qualification and units to pre-16 learners centres are required to exercise due diligence in respect of the following:

- the learner's needs and access to information and advice about the units offered and how the course of learning will meet their needs;
- the learner's present capacity to undertake the tasks set by tutors, and tutors understanding of how particular tasks accord with the assessment criteria for the unit;
- tutors should be fully conversant with the qualification and unit specification/s offered to learners, where clarification is required the centre should consult with the assigned External Quality Assurer for further advice and guidance in the delivery of units and refer to the Centre Handbook and Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration policy and guidance.
- centres will be required to have appropriate and up to date risk assessments and ensure that appropriate support and supervision is provided; appropriate subject specialist knowledge should be consulted where the possibility of harm to learners is identified; this will be monitored through Gateway Qualifications' quality assurance process.
- the centre contact for the unit/qualification being delivered must ensure that all procedures relating to the delivery of the unit/qualification operate effectively in the centre.

5.3 Qualification-specific staffing requirements

Please refer to the Staffing Requirements - Qualification Specific Roles section within the online centre handbook for tutor/assessor/IQA requirements:

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/advice-guidance/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-handbook/quality-compliance/>

6 Quality Assurance

Centres should refer to the online Centre Handbook for further guidance.

The quality assurance process for these qualifications is through risk-based external quality assurance monitoring through reviews of centres' internal quality assurance systems against key quality standards and sampling of assessment decisions and internal quality assurance activity to ensure that qualification standards are maintained.

Centre monitoring is undertaken by an External Quality Assurer (EQA) allocated to the centre. The EQA plays a critical role in the Gateway Qualifications approach to centre assessment standards scrutiny as they are responsible for:

- carrying out an annual compliance visit
- validating the centre's procedures for delivery of qualifications and assessment
- completing reports for each visit with clear action points where needed
- risk rating centres on the above.

The EQA carries out an initial risk assessment at the centre recognition stage and then annually on an on-going basis using Gateway Qualifications' risk assessment criteria, and gives a high/medium/low risk rating in each of the following categories:

- centre resourcing and arrangements: this includes consideration of centre staffing, induction and training, policies and compliance with our centre agreement
- internal assessment and delivery: including reference to staff knowledge and skills, understanding of requirements, and appropriateness of delivery arrangements; also, delivery of external assessments including invigilation, conduct of assessments and confidentiality (where appropriate)
- internal quality assurance: covering IQA procedures, whether staff are appropriately trained, and standardisation arrangements in place
- learner experience: that embraces appropriateness of initial assessment and learners being on the correct programme, learner induction and course support.

EQAs arrange quality monitoring visits to all recognised centres. These visits:

- monitor the centre's compliance with the centre recognition terms and conditions by reviewing programme documentation and meeting managers and centre staff
- identify any staff development needs
- ensure that all procedures are being complied with, through an audit trail, and make sure that the award of certificates of completion to learners is secure.

EQAs contact the centre in advance of a visit, however Gateway Qualifications reserves the right to undertake unannounced visits including during assessment times.

EQAs will request information from the centre in advance of a planned visit to help inform the evidence to be reviewed during the visit. Centres are obliged to comply with any requests for access to premises, people and records for the purposes of the monitoring visit. If a centre fails to provide access, then Gateway Qualifications will take appropriate action.

Once a visit date has been agreed, the centre should ensure that the appropriate members of staff attend the meeting, all requested documentation is provided and access to qualification, learner and staff records is available.

If a centre cancels a pre-arranged monitoring visit at short notice the EQA must be satisfied that there was a legitimate reason for the cancellation. If this cannot be established,

Gateway Qualifications reserves the right to withhold certification claims until a monitoring visit is completed.

Following the visit, the EQA completes a monitoring report which will be sent to the centre for reference afterwards.

The frequency of the quality monitoring visits will be determined by the volume of learner registrations and the actions arising from previous monitoring activity. Centres found in breach of these procedures may be subject to sanctions by Gateway Qualifications. Please refer to the Gateway Qualifications Sanctions Policy.

6.1 Internal Quality Assurance

As the assessments are tutor marked the centre must operate an internal quality assurance process. This ensures that qualification standards are being applied consistently within a centre through training, standardisation, sampling of marking and feedback. A centre's internal quality assurance process is led by the Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) who is responsible for ensuring that all tutors are marking assessments in line with the standards set by Gateway Qualifications.

Internal Standardisation

Internal standardisation is a collaborative process by which tutors within a centre consider work that they have marked and, using pre-determined criteria, reach a common agreement on standards as being typical of work at a particular level by comparing samples and providing peer evaluation.

Standardisation will be facilitated by the Centre's IQA and should include all those involved in marking assessments. Centre standardisation events should be held at regular intervals and to a schedule which reflects delivery patterns and supports the marking of live assessments. Centres will be required to keep records of each internal standardisation event including the date, attendees and notes on any outcomes and actions. Centres will be required to store these reports securely for three years and Gateway Qualifications may ask to see these records as part of the centre quality assurance and monitoring activities.

6.2 Quality assuring centre marking

Once the internal quality assurance process is complete, an EQA will be allocated to a centre to sample the centre marking.

The sample selected is based on the number of learners and the centre's risk rating, derived from centre monitoring.

Evidence of the inconsistent marking and actions taken informs the centre's risk rating and this information will be taken into account with the sampling of future assessments, for example, leading to an increase in sampling size.

6.3 Malpractice

Malpractice is any deliberate activity, neglect, default or other practice that compromises the integrity of the internal and external assessment process, and/or the validity of certificates. It covers any deliberate actions, neglect, default or other practice that compromises, or could compromise:

- the assessment process
- the integrity of a regulated qualification
- the validity of a result or certificate
- the reputation and credibility of Gateway Qualifications
- the qualification to the public at large.

Centre staff should be familiar with the contents of Gateway Qualifications Malpractice and Maladministration Policy, <https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Malpractice-and-Maladministration-Policy.pdf>

6.4 Additional quality assurance requirements

There are no additional internal/external quality assurance requirements for this/these qualification/s.

7 Learner Registration and Results

7.1 Awarding

The qualifications will be awarded as Pass or Fail. Learners must pass the assessment to be awarded a Pass.

7.2 Issuing results

Results for learners who do not reach the minimum standard for a pass will be recorded as fail.

7.3 Appeals

Centres must have internal appeal arrangements which learners can access if they wish to appeal against a decision taken by Centres, which will include a named contact at the Centre. These arrangements have to be transparent and accessible in order that appeals from learners can be received, considered and resolved fairly.

Please refer to the Gateway Qualifications' Appeals policy:

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Appeals-Policy.pdf>

7.4 Enquiries

Enquiries about assessment decisions should be made once the centre has followed its internal enquiries and appeal procedures.

Contact details are available on our website:

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/contact-us/>

8 What to do next

For existing centres please contact your named Development Manager or Development Officer.

Tel: 01206 911211

Email: enquiries@gatewayqualifications.org.uk

9 Gateway Qualifications

Gateway Qualifications, a not for profit registered charity, is an Awarding Organisation based in Colchester.

We work with learning providers and industry experts to design and develop qualifications that benefit the learner and the employer.

We support flexible, responsive and quality assured learning opportunities whether it's in the classroom, at work, in the community or through distance learning.

We are recognised by Ofqual, to design, develop and submit qualifications to the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and Qualification Wales to offer regulated qualifications in Wales.



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