

The **Extended Certificate in ICT** is a vocational qualification equivalent to one A-Level. It provides learners with essential skills and knowledge for understanding and working within the rapidly evolving ICT sector. The course blends theoretical knowledge with practical application, preparing students for further study or careers in IT and related fields.

### Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** Equivalent to one A-Level.
2. **Assessment:**
  - A combination of internally assessed coursework and externally assessed tasks/exams.
  - Emphasis on applying knowledge to real-world ICT scenarios.

### Units of Study

The course comprises **four units**:

#### Mandatory Units:

1. **Information Technology Systems** (externally assessed):
  - An overview of how IT systems support organizations in achieving goals.
  - Topics include hardware, software, networks, and the implications of IT systems on individuals and businesses.
  - Focus on ethical and legal considerations in IT.
2. **Creating Systems to Manage Information** (externally assessed):
  - Understanding database design and development to solve real-world problems.
  - functional database using software such as Microsoft Access or similar tools.
3. **Using Social Media in Business** (internally assessed):
  - Exploring how social media platforms can be leveraged for marketing and engagement.
  - Planning and implementing a social media strategy for a business.

#### Optional Units (internally assessed, institution-dependent):

Examples include:

- **Data Modelling:** Using spreadsheets and tools for business decision-making.
- **Website Development:** Designing and building websites for specific audiences.
- **IT Project Management:** Exploring project management techniques within an ICT context.

#### Skills Developed

- Problem-solving and logical thinking.

- Practical IT skills, including database design, social media management, and website development.
- Data analysis and interpretation.
- Knowledge of IT systems and their application in business environments.
- Understanding of legal, social, and ethical issues in ICT.

### **Career Pathways**

This qualification provides a strong foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in computer science, IT management, digital marketing, or cybersecurity.
2. **Apprenticeships:** Opportunities in software development, IT support, or digital technologies.
3. **Employment:** Roles such as IT technician, social media coordinator, or data analyst.

### **Who Is It For?**

- Students interested in technology and its applications in business and society.
- Those who prefer a combination of practical and theoretical learning.
- Learners aiming to gain hands-on experience with ICT tools and methodologies.