

Assessment Timetable 2026-2028

Key Stage 4

Certificates
Technical Awards

Key Stage 5

Technical Levels
Technical Certificates
Applied Generals

Please note that 'T Level' qualifications are not included within this timetable. There has been a separate Key Dates Schedule communication for T Levels, you will find this available on our website.

Some key dates for these particular T Level qualifications (e.g., registration dates and results release) are arrived at in conjunction with other Awarding Bodies and Regulatory partners, other dates (e.g., individual assessment dates) are determined by NCFE alone.

Guidance information

All Key Stage 4 and 5 qualifications covered by this timetable are subject to Department for Education technical guidance.

Essential resource information and assessment conditions (for external assessments only) can be found in the [QSID](#).

Centre responsibilities

The external assessments **must** be completed in line with [JCQ Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#).

Centres **must** ensure that all staff involved in the external assessment have read and understood the regulations, in addition to information provided in Tutor Guides for each V-Cert qualification.

For V Cert qualifications the non-exam assessment (NEA) **must** be completed in line with the regulations for the conduct of the NEA outlined in the Tutor Guidance document available of the qualification page on the NCFE website.

Booking your learners for an assessment

Some qualifications will require you to make the booking upon registration, for all others this is managed as a separate process, and it is the centre's responsibility to ensure learners are booked onto the appropriate assessment window/date.

Bookings, including re-sits, must be made via the 'Manage Bookings' screen in the [NCFE Portal](#). Please refer to the [Portal User Guide](#) for further guidance.

Booking cut-off

All learners must be booked via the [NCFE Portal](#) by the advertised booking cut-off date in this document. Any late bookings will be subject to an additional late booking fee as detailed in our fees and pricing document for NCFE or CACHE.

V-Cert registration cut-off

Assessment year	Standard learner registration	Late learner registration	Very late learner registration
2026/27	31/01/2026	01/02/2026 – 30/04/2026	01/05/2026 – 30/04/2027
2027/28	31/01/2027	01/02/2027 – 30/04/2027	01/05/2027 – 30/04/2028

Reasonable adjustments

If learners require reasonable adjustments these must be submitted in line with the published timescales in our [guidance and policy document](#). Failure to do so may mean your learners will not have approval in place for the assessment.

Assessment date

Set date/time: The learners must sit the external assessment at these dates/ times in line with [JCQ Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#). You will need to complete the assessment variation form if the assessment date/time clashes with another external assessment/examination.

For assessments with published starting times, centres are enabled to start assessments by up to 30 minutes earlier than, or later than, the published starting time without the requirement to submit an assessment variation request for approval. If the amendment to time is greater than 30 minutes, prior approval must be agreed.

For V Cert NEAs for 2026/27, the live brief will be published 01 October 2026. Centres will be able to start the assessment only when all teaching and learning of the full qualification is complete.



Assessment window

At the beginning of delivering the qualification, you must plan all supervised and/or invigilated sessions within the published assessment window. Assessment timetables may be checked by External Quality Assurers or Assessment Audit Advisors during any centre quality assurance visit.

For the V Cert NEAs for 2026/27, centres must plan sufficient time with contingency to ensure all assessments are complete and learner marks can be entered into the Portal no later than 30 April 2027.

Pre-release/stimulus materials

For any external assessments where pre-release/stimulus assessment materials are required, these will be provided a minimum of 5 working days (unless otherwise stated) prior to the date of the external assessment/start of the assessment window. Please refer to the [QSID](#) for further information.

Return of external assessments

Partially or fully completed learner work, and the External assessment Register(s)/ Submission List, must be returned to address indicated on assessment paperwork by special delivery/ secure courier or by the secure dispatch of scripts service (Yellow Label) within 2 working days (3 working days for digitally uploaded work) of the external assessment taking place or the final timetabled supervised/ invigilated session. Should the published date or end date of an assessment fall on the final day of a term or half-term, centres must make arrangements to have papers sent or uploaded (if appropriate) on this final day, should relevant staff (e.g., IT support, Examinations Officers) be unavailable on the following working days.

Late return fees will apply to any completed external assessment material that is not received 72 hours after the external assessment.

Submission of V Cert non-exam assessment (NEA)

The deadline for submitting assessment marks for the NEA is 30 April each year. On 1 May a sample plan list will be generated on the system, and you'll have 3 working days in which to upload all of the learner evidence, feedback sheets and checklists. Please refer to the checklist in each assessment pack for specifics of what documents are required to be uploaded.

Learner marks and evidence must be submitted by the specified dates to guarantee results are issued in line with published result release dates.

Results release

The external assessment results will be released on the date highlighted for each assessment opportunity, specific to the qualification. You will be notified if any results are placed on hold and the reason why. Results can be viewed in the [NCFE Portal](#).



Enquiries about results and Reviews of Moderation

Please refer to our [policy](#) for details of deadlines and what you need to fill in.

Contingency planning

Our [External Assessment Contingency Planning](#) publication offers guidance on what a centre should do in any unforeseen circumstances meaning an external assessment cannot go ahead on the published date and time. It also provides guidance on how centres can plan for and deal with severe disruptions and/or emergencies.

V-Certs - New model with delivery from September 2022

From September 2022 we launched 11 new V Cert qualifications. Some are updated versions of existing V Certs, and others cover brand new subject areas.

These new style V Certs have a single external assessment each year and a single non-examination assessment (NEA), timetabled in the summer. These assessment dates will be released 1 year in advance, and the first assessments took place in summer 2024. This means that this version of our timetable, covering 2026-28, contains a confirmed date of summer 2027 and a provisional date for summer 2028. The exact dates for the 2027/28 timetable will be published in summer 2027. The full list of the available new V Certs that this relates to can be found [here](#).

Main menu

Subject areas are as below

Business and Enterprise

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7004/X	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise	31/01/2025	22/05/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	21/05/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	19/05/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Children and Young People - Level 2 and Level 1/2

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7012/9	NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years	31/01/2025	09/06/2026 9.00am	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	08/06/2027*	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	17/05/2028 9.00am	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

*Amended from previously published date

Children and Young People - Level 3

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Submission date	External assessment results released
603/7477/9	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Northern Ireland)	CCLDNI/EDEA1 CCLDNI/EDEA2 CCLDNI/EDEA3 CCLDNI/EDEA4 CCLDNI/EDEA5	17/09/2026	01/10/2026	03/12/2026
			30/12/2026	14/01/2027	17/03/2027
			25/03/2027	12/04/2027	11/06/2027
			23/09/2027	07/10/2027	07/12/2027
			29/12/2027	13/01/2028	15/03/2028
			27/03/2028	10/04/2028	09/06/2028

Children and Young People - Level 3 Applied General suite

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment date and time (1 hour 45 mins)	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested - The Certificate requires both the AGAEYCE and AGCEYCE					
603/2987/7*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award for Early Years, Childcare and Education	AGAEYCE	20/05/2026	04/06/2026 9.00am	10/07/2026
			19/02/2027	05/03/2027 9.00am	10/05/2027
			13/05/2027	27/05/2027*** 9.00am	09/07/2027
			18/02/2028	03/03/2028 9.00am	08/05/2028
			11/05/2028**	25/05/2028 9.00am	07/07/2028
603/2988/9*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and Education	AGCEYCE	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment window (8 hours)	External assessment results released
			13/04/2026	27/04/2026 – 13/05/2026	10/07/2026
			24/12/2026	12/01/2027 – 27/01/2027	06/04/2027
			12/04/2027	26/04/2027 – 12/05/2027	09/07/2027
			23/12/2027	11/01/2028 – 26/01/2028	04/04/2028
			10/04/2028**	24/04/2028 – 10/05/2028	07/07/2028

* Registrations closed for this qualification

** Final assessment for this qualification

***Amended from previously published date

Creative Design and Production

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7003/8	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production	31/01/2025	12/06/2026 9.00am	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	11/06/2027 9.00am	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	09/06/2028 9.00am	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Early Years Educator - Level 3

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Submission date	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested - The Diploma requires both EYE/EPS and EYE/EA					
601/3999/7*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education	EYE/EPS1 EYE/EPS2 EYE/EPS3	11/09/2026	25/09/2026	20/11/2026
			21/12/2026	07/01/2027	10/03/2027
			16/03/2027	01/04/2027	08/06/2027
			10/09/2027	24/09/2027	19/11/2027
			20/12/2027	06/01/2028	08/03/2028
			16/03/2028**	30/03/2028	06/06/2028
601/4000/8*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (EYE)	EYE/EA1 EYE/EA2	30/04/2026	15/05/2026	10/07/2026
			02/09/2026	16/09/2026	25/11/2026
			31/12/2026	15/01/2027	25/03/2027
			29/04/2027	14/05/2027	09/07/2027
			01/09/2027	15/09/2027	24/11/2027
			30/12/2027	14/01/2028	23/03/2028
			27/04/2028**	12/05/2028	07/07/2028

* Registrations closed for this qualification

** Final assessment for this qualification

Early Years Educator - Level 3

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Submission date	External assessment results released
601/2147/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (EYE)	EYE/RS1 EYE/RS2	03/09/2026**	17/09/2026	26/11/2026

**Final assessment for this qualification

Early Years Educator - Level 3

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment Window	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested - The Diploma requires both CCE1 and DCE2					
601/8436/X*	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education	CCE1	17/04/2026	01/05/2026 - 20/05/2026	10/07/2026
			29/12/2026	13/01/2027 - 29/01/2027	06/04/2027
			22/04/2027	07/05/2027 - 26/05/2027	09/07/2027
			24/12/2027	12/01/2028 - 28/01/2028	04/04/2028
			20/04/2027**	05/05/2028 - 24/05/2028	07/07/2028
601/8437/1*	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)	DCE2	07/05/2026	21/05/2026 - 17/06/2026	04/08/2026
			23/12/2026	11/01/2027 - 03/02/2027***	09/04/2027
			14/04/2027	28/04/2027 - 21/05/2027***	09/07/2027
			22/12/2027	10/01/2028 - 02/02/2028	07/04/2028
			10/04/2028**	26/04/2028 - 19/05/2028	07/07/2028

* Registrations closed for this qualification

** Final assessment for this qualification

*** Amended from previously published date

Engineering Studies

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7006/3	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering	31/01/2025	20/05/2026 9.00am	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	18/05/2027* 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	16/05/2028 9.00am	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

*Amended from previously published date

Food and Cookery

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7014/2	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery	31/01/2025	19/05/2026 9.00am	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	07/05/2027 9.00am	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	05/05/2028 9.00am	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Graphic Design

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7011/7	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Graphic Design	31/01/2025	02/06/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	08/06/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	06/06/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Health and Fitness

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7007/5	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness	31/01/2025	22/05/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	18/05/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	16/05/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Health and Social Care - Level 1/2

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Entries cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7013/0	NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care	31/01/2025	20/05/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	19/05/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	06/06/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Health and Social Care - Level 3

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Submission date	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested. HSC/CEA is required for the Extended Diploma					
601/6109/7	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care	HSC/CEA1 HSC/CEA2	11/09/2026	25/09/2026	20/11/2026
			22/12/2026	08/01/2027	08/03/2027
			22/04/2027	07/05/2027	09/07/2027
			10/09/2027	24/09/2027	19/11/2027
			21/12/2027	07/01/2028	06/03/2028
			20/04/2028	05/05/2028	07/07/2028
601/6110/3	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	HSC/EDEA1 HSC/EDEA2	18/09/2026	02/10/2026	11/12/2026
			30/12/2026	14/01/2027	25/03/2027
			29/04/2027	14/05/2027	09/07/2027
			17/09/2027	01/10/2027	10/12/2027
			29/12/2027	13/01/2028	23/03/2028
			27/04/2027	12/05/2028	07/07/2028

Health and Social Care - Level 3 Technical Qualifications

Qualification Reference Number (QRN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment window (20 hours)	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested - HSC1 is required for the Extended Diploma					
601/8434/6	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care	HSC1	11/01/2027	25/01/2027 – 12/02/2027	12/04/2027
			12/04/2027	26/04/2027 – 12/05/2027	09/07/2027
			10/01/2028	24/01/2028 – 11/02/2028	10/04/2028
			06/04/2028	24/04/2028 – 10/05/2028	07/07/2028
601/8435/8	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	HSED2	19/01/2027	02/02/2027 – 25/02/2027	16/04/2027
			22/04/2027	06/05/2027 – 25/05/2027	09/07/2027
			18/01/2028	01/02/2028 – 24/02/2028	13/04/2028
			20/04/2028	04/05/2028 – 23/05/2028	07/07/2028

Health and Social Care - Level 3 Technical Qualifications

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	External assessment results released
601/8435/8	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care	HSCNI/SAE	30/12/2026	14/01/2027 9.00am	22/03/2027
			05/04/2027	19/04/2027 9.00am	11/06/2027
			29/12/2027	13/01/2028 9.00am	20/03/2028
			30/03/2028	17/04/2028 9.00am	09/06/2028

Health and Social Care - Level 3 Applied General suite

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment date and time (1 hour 45 minutes)	External assessment results released
The below qualifications are nested – the Certificate requires both the AGAHSC and AGCHSC					
603/2913/0*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award in Health and Social Care	AGAHSC	26/02/2027	12/03/2027 9.00am	10/05/2027
			14/05/2027	28/05/2027*** 9.00am	09/07/2027
			25/02/2028	10/03/2028 9.00am	08/05/2028
			12/05/2028**	26/05/2028 9.00am	07/07/2028
Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment window (8 hours)	External assessment results released
603/2914/2*	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Health and Social Care	AGCHSC	21/12/2026	07/01/2027 – 25/01/2027	06/04/2027
			09/04/2027	23/04/2027 – 11/05/2027	09/07/2027
			20/12/2027	06/01/2028 – 24/01/2028	04/04/2028
			05/04/2028**	21/04/2028 – 09/05/2028	07/07/2028

* Registrations closed for this qualification

**Final assessment for this qualification

***amended from previously published date

Health and Social Care - Level 3 Applied General suite

Qualification number (QN)	Title	Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	External assessment results released
603/5355/7	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) (Northern Ireland)	HSCNI/SAE	30/12/2026	14/01/2027 9.00am	22/03/2027
			05/04/2027	19/04/2027 9.00am	11/06/2027
			29/12/2027	13/01/2028 9.00am	20/03/2028
			30/03/2028	17/04/2028 9.00am	09/06/2028
		Assessment code	Bookings cut-off date	Submission date	External assessment results released
		HSCNI/EDEA1 HSCNI/EDEA2 HSCNI/EDEA3 HSCNI/EDEA4	22/01/2027	05/02/2027	01/04/2027
			08/04/2027	22/04/2027	11/06/2027
			21/01/2028	04/02/2028	30/03/2028
			04/04/2028	20/04/2028	09/06/2028

Interactive Media

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7005/1	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media	31/01/2025	12/06/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	11/06/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	09/06/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Music Technology

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7008/7	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology	31/01/2025	11/06/2026 1.30pm	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	10/06/2027 1.30pm	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	08/06/2028 1.30pm	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

Sports Studies

Level	Qualification number (QN)	Title	Bookings cut-off date (External assessment and NEA)	External Assessment date and time (1 hour 30 minutes)	NEA marks submission deadline	External assessment results released to learners
1/2	603/7010/5	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Sport Studies	31/01/2025	17/06/2026 9.00am	30/04/2026	20/08/2026
			31/01/2026	16/06/2027 9.00am	30/04/2027	19/08/2027
			31/01/2027	14/06/2028 9.00am	30/04/2028	24/08/2028

FAQs

Where can I find information on the resources I need to provide for the external assessment?

Please check in our [QSID](#).

How do I know if there are pre-release materials/stimulus materials for the external assessment?

Please check in our [QSID](#).

How do I know what conditions the external assessment needs to be delivered under?

Please check in our [QSID](#). External assessments must be administered in line with [JCQ Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#).

How do I book my learners for the external assessment?

This will be managed through our Portal. Please refer to the [Portal User Guide](#) for further guidance.

What do I do if I've missed the booking cut-off date?

We accept late bookings after the cut-off date has passed through until midnight the day before the assessment/start of the assessment window. Late bookings must be made through our Portal and are subject to late booking fees as detailed in our fees and pricing documents for NCFE or CACHE.

What if my learners can't attend at the time you have specified?

For all Key Stage 4 & 5 qualifications centres are permitted to start assessments by up to 30 minutes earlier than, or later than, the published starting time without the requirement to submit an assessment variation request for approval. If the amendment to time is greater than 30 minutes, an assessment variation request must be submitted, and prior approval must be agreed.

When will I receive confirmation of my learners' results?

Results will be released on the date highlighted for each assessment specific to the qualification. Results can be viewed in the NCFE Portal.

Where can I find more information on the NEA and moderation?

Please refer to the [moderation page](#) on our website.