

Professional Certificate in Communication Skills – alternative pathways

The Professional Certificate in Communication Skills will be withdrawn in April 2020. The final date for candidates to be examined for this qualification is 19 April 2020.

This document provides guidance on possible alternative qualification pathways that could be taken.

Grade 8 – Communication Skills Specifications from 2019 – *For candidates who are seeking a qualification that assesses skills in a range of professional style scenarios*

The new Communication Skills specifications now feature tasks at the higher grades that develop skills that can be applied to a range of professional contexts. Grade 8 in the Communication Skills Specifications from 2019 features tasks that require candidates to:

- Present on a communications process – testing their ability to both present in a formal scenario and to follow this with a discussion with the examiner where they will be expected to communicate and develop their ideas, providing rationales for their opinions
- Provide a public address to a set scenario – testing their ability to put together a response that is appropriate to an audience, venue and situation at short notice, being able to convey the required information that engages the 'audience' while imbuing the address with their own personal style
- Present a contentious situation and discuss both sides of the argument – testing their ability to understand and convey arguments related to a situation in a perceptive manner and then develop their thoughts further in response to questioning

Find out more about this qualification [here](#)

Advanced Performance Certificate – *For candidates seeking a qualification separate from the graded structure, and who wish to focus on and develop their skills in creating and delivering presentations at a high level*

In this qualification candidates can compile presentation programmes covering a range of topics, audiences and settings. Through offering a programme of talks candidates are assessed in their ability to:

- Compile topical, creative and engaging presentations
- Use verbal and non-verbal skills appropriate to a range of scenarios

Find out more about this qualification [here](#)

ATCL Communication Skills (Public Speaking) – *For candidates seeking a higher level of challenge beyond Grade 8*

This qualification encourages candidates to prepare and perform a programme of public speaking tasks in a range of contexts. In the exam candidates are required to compile and deliver five presentations on set topics to a range of audiences in formal and informal settings. This is followed by an in-depth discussion about the candidate's journey from planning their presentations through to presenting them. Through delivering these tasks, candidates are assessed in their ability to:

- Use a wide range of physical and vocal skills to engage their 'audiences', using physical space and visual/audio aids creatively
- Respond to the quality, form, content and context of a variety of speech modes
- Reflect upon personal performance

Find out more about this qualification [here](#)