

# Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework

## Diploma Title: Social Sciences

<b>Learning Aim:</b>	40010260
<b>Approved:</b>	04 June 2019
<b>Validation dates:</b>	01 August 2019 - 31 July 2024
<b>Date of next review:</b>	September 2023

### *Purpose and aim of the Access to HE Diploma*

The Access to HE Diploma is intended to prepare people without traditional entry qualifications for degree level study at university. It may also be used by people wishing to make a career change or who have been out of formal education for a significant time in order to gain the skills and confidence required for direct progression to employment or further study. The Access to HE Diploma is regulated by QAA and widely recognised as a progression route by universities across the UK.

### *Target Group*

The Access Diploma is open to all learners but is designed to be accessible for individuals who, as a result of their socio-economic or personal circumstances, may not have been able to consider progression to degree level study. The Access Diploma therefore provides a second chance for individuals who, for whatever reason, were not able to take full advantage of their formal secondary education.

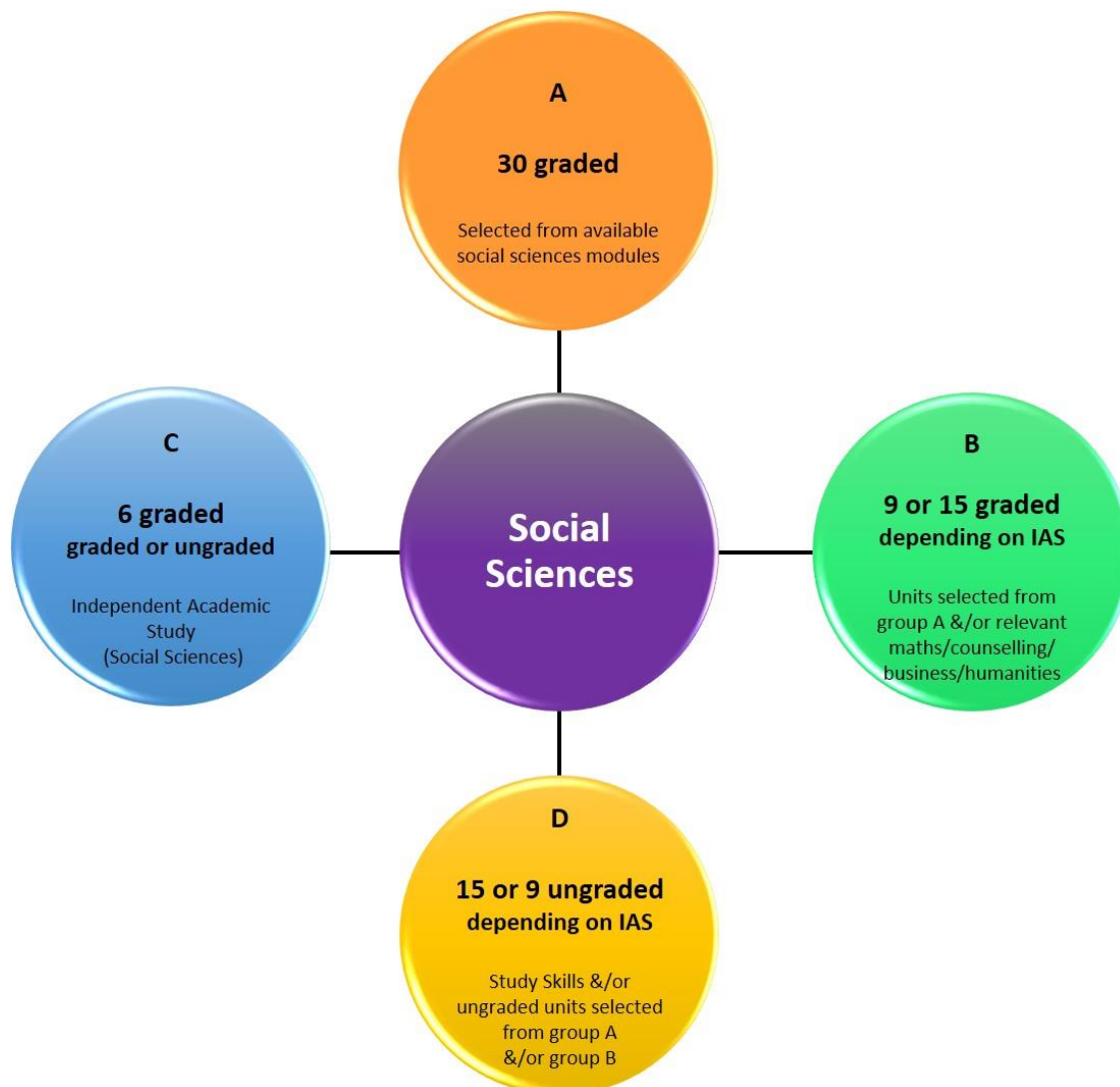
### *About the qualification*

The Diploma Specification for Social Sciences enables centres to choose from a range of social science subject areas.

<sup>1</sup>The progression routes from this Diploma could include, but are not limited to, degrees in psychology, criminology, sociology, criminal justice, social work, teaching, anthropology, politics, public services, business studies, international relations, social policy, sports psychology, counselling, humanities, education, law, child and youth studies, etc

## Specification Rules<sup>2</sup>

All LASER Diplomas are made up of 45 graded credits (sections A, B, C below) and 15 ungraded credits (section D).



<sup>1</sup> Suggested progression routes have been taken from provider feedback and HE consultation, they may be subject to change and further review and do not indicate any guarantee of progression in these fields. LASER would always recommend students ensure the diploma they wish to enrol on is appropriate for their future progression.

<sup>2</sup> the policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available via <https://www.laser-awards.org.uk/access-to-higher-education/for-centres/laser-access-framework/> or by contacting the Access Office

# Unit Choices: SUBJECT GROUP A

30 graded credits to be selected from the modules listed below, these units are chosen as specific to the subject of the named Diploma and are all at level 3.

<b>Anthropology</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
3	Introduction to Anthropology & Research Issues
3	The Human Body: Biological and Social
6	Personhood: Rituals and Symbols
3	Gender and Sexuality
3	Material Culture and Indigenous Rights
3	Kinship Studies
3	Fieldwork & Ethnography
3	Anthropology of Religion
3	Politics and Social Organisation
<b>Criminology</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
3	Crime and Social Exclusion
3	Criminal Investigations and Forensic Psychology
3	Critical Issues in Criminology
3	The History of Crime and Punishment
3	Introduction to Criminology
3	Introduction to Criminal Justice
3	Introduction to Forensic Crime Scene Investigation
3	The Media and Crime
3	Theories of Crime and Deviance
3	Victims and Victimology
3	White Collar Crime
3	Youth Crime and Youth Justice
<b>Development Studies</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
6	Introduction to Development Studies
3	Global Poverty
3	The Politics of Development
3	Globalisation and Development
3	Human Rights and Development

## Politics

Credits	Title
3	Anarchist Ideology
3	Conservative Ideology
3	Ecologism
3	Feminist Ideology
3	Liberal Ideology
3	Multiculturalism
3	Nationalist Ideology
3	Referendums, Elections and Electoral Systems
3	Representation, Participation and Democracy
3	Socialist Ideology
3	Studying and Ideology
3	The UK Constitution
3	Politics and the State of Nature Debate

## Psychology

Credits	Title
3	Introduction to Psychology
3	Introduction to Sport Psychology
3	Psychology and Mental Health ( <i>formerly titled Abnormal Psychology</i> )
3	Applied Stress Management
3	Bio-Psychology
3	Child Development
3	Cognitive Psychology
3	Criminological Psychology
3	Forensic Psychology
3	Neuro-Psychology
3	Psychology of Early Socialisation
3	Psychology of Education
3	Psychology of Health
3	Psychology and Therapy
3	Research Methods in Psychology
3	Social Psychology
3	Stress Management
3	Cyberpsychology

## Sociology

Credits	Title
3	Introduction to Sociology
3	Social Divisions
3	Social Research Methods
3	Social Stratification
3	The Sociology of Crime and Deviance
3	The Sociology of Education
3	The Sociology of Family
3	The Sociology of Health
3	The Sociology of Poverty
3	The Sociology of Religion
3	The Sociology of the Mass Media
3	Arguments for the Existence of God

## Social Work

Credits	Title
3	Anti-discriminatory Practice
6	Defining Social Work
3	Development of Social Welfare
3	Essential Practice Skills for Social Work
9	Introduction to Social Work <b>OR</b>
6	Introduction to Social Work
3	Safeguarding Adults from Possible Abuse
3	Safeguarding Children from Possible Abuse
3	Social Science Research Methods
3	Social Welfare in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
6	Social Work Practice

## Unit Choices: SUBJECT GROUP B

9 or 15 graded credits (depending on choice of graded or ungraded IAS unit from Group C) to be selected from either the modules listed in Group A and/or from the additional modules offered in below, these units are related to the subject of the named Diploma or will complement learning. These units are all at level 3.

<b>Art</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
3	Applying Context to Art Practice
3	Developing Artworks
3	Drawing – Research and Practice
3	Materials Exploration
3	Mixed Media as a Visual Art Form – Research and Practice
3	Painting – Research and Practice
3	Printmaking as a Visual Art Form – Research and Practice
3	Understanding and Producing 3D Sculptures
3	Critical Studies
<b>Business</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
3	Business Communication
6	Business Financial Accounting
3	Business Management Accounting
3	Consumer Protection Law and Business Implications
3	Developing a Business Plan
6	Managing Human Resources for Business
3	Marketing Principles and Implications for Business
3	Setting Up a New Small Business
3	The Nature and Context of Business
3	Introduction to Microeconomics
3	Business Recruitment and Retention
3	Financial Planning in Business

## Counselling

Credits	Title
6	Advanced Counselling Skills
6	Approaches to Counselling
6	Difference and Diversity in Counselling
6	Introduction to Cognitive Behaviour Theory
6	Introduction to Person Centred Theory
6	Introduction to Psychodynamic Counselling Theory
3	Listening Skills in the Helping Professions
6	Loss and Bereavement Counselling
6	Professional and Reflective Practice in a Counselling Setting
6	Professional Practice and Ethics in Counselling
6	Self-Awareness and Personal Development in Counselling
3	Specialist Areas in Counselling

## Creative Writing

Credits	Title
3	Writing the Short story
3	Writing Poetry
3	Creative Writing – Inspiration and Reflection
3	Writing for Children
3	Writing for Television
3	Writing for Newspapers and Magazines
3	Writing for Radio
6	Creative Writing- Developing a Project
3	Writing Crime Fiction

## Cultural Studies

Credits	Title
3	Introduction to Cultural Studies
3	The Communication of Culture
3	Defining Culture
3	Identity, Self-concept and Self-presentation
3	Spaces and Places in Culture
3	Race, Nation and Ethnicity
3	Sexuality and Gender
3	Consumer Society

## Education

Credits	Title
3	Education – A Focus on Quality
6	Education – Current Policy and Practice
3	Education Studies
3	Introduction to the Sociology of Education <i>(cannot be used with Social Research Methods or The Sociology of Education)</i>
6	Educational Psychology <i>(not to be taken with Psychology of Education)</i>
6	Sociological Perspectives of Education <i>(not to be taken with The Sociology of Education)</i>
6	Educational Sociology
3	The History and Politics of Education
3	Theoretical Perspectives of Education
3	Theories of Learning
3	Understanding a School's Culture

## English Literature

**(similar prose, drama and poetry units cannot be selected from both English modules within one ROC)**

Credits	Title
3	British Poetry
3	Literary Comparisons
3	Poetry
3	Pre-20 <sup>th</sup> Century Drama
3	Pre-20 <sup>th</sup> Century Poetry
3	Pre-20 <sup>th</sup> Century Prose
3	Prose
3	Shakespeare's Drama
3	Short Fiction
3	Studying a Play
3	Studying Literature
3	Introduction to Creative Writing
3	Fairy Tales, Folklore and Culture

## English Language and Literature

**(similar prose, drama and poetry units cannot be selected from both English modules within one ROC)**

Credits	Title
3	Language and Literature: An Introduction
3	Language and Literature: Prose Non-Fiction
3	Language and Literature: Prose Fiction
3	Language and Literature: Spoken English
3	Language and Literature: Drama
3	Language and Literature: Poetry
3	Language and Literature: Taking a Comparative Approach*
3	Linguistics: Comparing the Modes of Speech and Writing <i>(not to be taken with the unit marked*)</i>



## Forensics

Credits	Title
3	Applied Forensic Biology
3	Applied Forensic Chemistry
3	Applied Forensic Physics
3	Forensic Evidence Collection
3	Presenting Forensic Evidence

## History

Credits	Title
3	The Individual in History
3	Historical Controversy
3	Historical Concepts – Cause and Consequence
3	Historical Concepts – Significance and Perspective
3	Wider Reading for History
3	Using Historical Sources Effectively
3	History – Conflict and Combat
3	History – Hidden Voices

## Law

Credits	Title
3	The Role and Function of Law
3	The British Constitution
3	Consumer Law
3	Criminal Law
3	Law and Civil Liberty
3	Contract Law
3	Employment Law
3	Family Law
3	Health and Social Care Legislation within the UK
3	International Law
3	Legal Process
3	Tort Law

## Maths

Credits	Title
3	Algebra
3	Arithmetic
3	Calculus
3	General Mathematics
3	Statistics
3	Trigonometry
3	The Nature and Applications of Statistics
3	Collecting, Presenting and Using Statistics

## Media

Credits	Title
3	Media Advertising
6	Media Production
3	Media Regulation
3	Media Research
3	Media: Institutions and Audiences
3	Media: Post Production
3	Media: Textual Analysis
3	Mixed Media as a Visual Art Form: Research and Practice
3	Persuasion and Change in a Business/Media Context

## Philosophy

Credits	Title
3	Analysis of a Selected Philosopher
3	Ancient Greek Philosophy
3	Buddhist Philosophy
3	Meta-ethical Theories
3	Normative Ethical Theories
3	Philosophical Truth
3	Philosophy - The Problem of Evil
3	Philosophy of Religion: The Existence of God

## Professional Studies

Credits	Title
3	Developing Professional Practice in Healthcare
3	Understanding Ethics in Healthcare
3	Understanding Epidemiology
3	Understanding Health and Well-being
3	Understanding Health Informatics
3	Understanding Health Promotion and Health Education
3	Advising on Travel Health
3	Understanding Adolescent Health
3	Understanding Human Health and Disease
3	Understanding Mental Health
3	Understanding Quality Improvement in Healthcare
3	Understanding Sexual Health
3	Pain Management

# Independent Academic Study: IAS GROUP C

6 credits are achieved from the appropriate Independent Academic Study unit (IAS) for the Diploma title. This unit is at level 3 and can be offered as graded or ungraded (but not both) within a centre's Rules of Combination.

<b>Independent Academic Study</b>	
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Title</b>
6	Independent Academic Study (Social Sciences)

## Ungraded Units: GROUP D

15 or 9 ungraded credits (depending on choice of graded or ungraded IAS unit from Group C) are selected from the modules listed in Group D which include study skills, English language and maths and/or ungraded versions of units available in Group A or Group B can be selected in this section. These units are generally at level 3 but selected units may be available at level 2.

Study Skills		
Level	Credits	Title
3	6	Academic Study Skills
3	3	Critical Thinking
3	3	Note Taking and Note Making
3	3	Personal Organisation and Time Management
3	3	Giving a Presentation to an Audience ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
3	3	Reviewing and Planning for the Future
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Essay Writing ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Research ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
2 or 3	3	Skills for Study: Writing ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
2 or 3	3	Using ICT for Study
3	3	Preparing for Written Exams ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
English		
Level	Credits	Title
2	3	English Language Skills
3	3	Studying Literature
3	3	Communication – Reading and Writing
3	3	Communication – Speaking and Listening
Maths		
Level	Credits	Title
2	3	Understanding Maths ( <i>online e-learning course available for this unit</i> )
3	3	Application of Number - Calculation
3	3	Application of Number – Data Interpretation
3	6	Introductory Mathematics for HE
Ungraded Units selected from Subject Groups A & B <sup>3</sup>		

<sup>3</sup> Units cannot be included within a Centre's Rules of Combination as both graded and ungraded but centres can choose to offer some subject units as ungraded versions. These would be identified as part of the course approval.

## Diploma Assessment Framework<sup>4</sup>

All LASER validated Access to HE programmes must include a **Diploma Assessment Schedule** as a part of their validation/revalidation process and the schedules will be required to be updated and available for review as part of the yearly ‘External Verification/Moderation’ cycle.

### Required Assessment Models:

Assessment Model <sup>5</sup>	Suggested Weighted Frequency of Use	Comments
Examination <sup>6</sup>	High / Moderate / Low	<i>Required by LASER Examination Policy and identified as commonly used assessment model within HE.</i>
Essay (Include as necessary)	High / Moderate / Low	<i>Together with Examinations this constitutes one of the most predominant assessment methodologies for HE</i>
Presentation	High / Moderate / Low	<i>Very high frequency of use in HE but not always as a summative assessment tool. Students should have moderate but not substantive experience of this form of assessment.</i>
Report <sup>7</sup>	High / Moderate / Low	<i>A less frequently used model of assessment but required as many progression routes will employ this model and students should have some experience of it.</i>

<sup>4</sup> the policy for the LASER Access to HE Diploma Specification & Assessment Framework is available via <https://www.laser-awards.org.uk/access-to-higher-education/for-centres/laser-access-framework/> or by contacting the Access Office

<sup>5</sup> Definitions of the meanings of given **Assessment Models** are contained within Annex One.

<sup>6</sup> The LASER Examination Policy requires all LASER validated Diploma Titles to include **4** examinations. Two maybe employed as **formative assessment models** and **two MUST** be employed as **summative assessment models** although not necessarily in terms of graded units.

<sup>7</sup> This could be evidenced by the submission of the graded IAS or could be evidenced via a graded alternative unit of assessment.

### Recommended Assessment Models:

Recommended Assessment Model	Possible Weighting	Comments
Project	Strongly Recommended / <b>Recommended</b> / Suggested	<i>May be used as a means of assessing independent learning in a given subject area.</i>
Extended Essay	Strongly Recommended / <b>Recommended</b> / Suggested	<i>Although not the norm this assessment tool is used with moderate frequency in HE and therefore students should have some experience of it.</i>
Case Study	Strongly Recommended / Recommended / <b>Suggested</b>	<i>May be appropriate to units where there is a requirement for application of knowledge... E.g. Law or Psychology</i>
Literary Review	Strongly Recommended / <b>Recommended</b> / Suggested	<i>A model used within the study of English Literature, English Language and Media which require the student to formulate a written critique of the given text which may or may not draw on alternative academic sources depending on the nature of the task. The model may be broadened within Media to include 'Textual Analysis' of film or other media.</i>
Workbook	Strongly Recommended / <b>Recommended</b> / Suggested	<i>May be used in relation to any unit</i>