

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

*A guide to help you get ready to start the
Advanced level course.*



What is the Advanced course?



Many of you will have successfully studied the Key Stage Four Welsh Baccalaureate/Skills Challenge Certificate already. The Advanced course focuses on developing and assessing the same skills and is similar in structure to the Key Stage Four course. However, it has more opportunities for independent work and a greater focus on your future career or employment. The Advanced course will be studied in Year 12 and 13.

This [film](#) from Qualifications Wales outlines the course and explains what the Skills Challenge Certificate is and how it contributes to the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification. WJEC have also produced a simple [poster](#) to explain what the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate is. Click [here](#) for a helpful WJEC student handbook that outlines the course, this would be a helpful handbook to keep throughout your course.

TED Talk recommendations

Creative thinking from Matt Goldman	https://www.ted.com/talks/matt_goldman_the_search_for_aha_moments
Tips to improve your critical thinking.	https://www.ted.com/talks/samantha_agoos_5_tips_to_improve_your_critical_thinking
Leadership skills	https://www.ted.com/talks/roselinde_torres_what_it_takes_to_be_a_great_leader



Social Media



Suggestions of people to follow on Twitter:

@EAS_Skills. EAS twitter account for Skills Challenge Certificate.

@WEMovement. Social action group.

@BigIdeasWales. Organization supporting the development of Enterprise skills

Getting ready to study....

Task 1

Investigate the key issues and themes linked to each of the challenges you will study.

- a) Global Citizenship Challenge - in this challenge you will focus in depth on a global issue and consider how the world should try to solve or respond to it. To prepare, try investigating some of the issues below. For each one, research what the problem or issue is, what the different viewpoints or perspectives there are on the issue, and how we could try to solve the issue.

Water scarcity

Access to healthcare

Gender equality

- b) Enterprise and Employability Challenge - in this challenge you will work in a team to develop an innovative idea for a product or service. There is a whole series of lessons and resources linked to setting up a business [here](#).

- c) Community Challenge - this challenge will require you to plan and organise a community activity that will benefit others. To prepare for this you should:

Research into some local charities.

What work do they do and how do they help people?

What are the benefits of volunteering? Do some research here: <https://wcva.cymru/volunteering/>

- d) Individual Project - in Year 13 you will have the opportunity to investigate an issue of your choice, and produce a research project, similar to a University dissertation.

FutureLearn has a free online course available to help prepare for this project: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/welshbacc>

Cardiff University has a helpful site focusing on research skills: <https://www.welshbacchistory.co.uk/>

Task 2

Think about your current strengths and weaknesses in the skills that are assessed on the Advanced Skills Challenge course. The 7 skills are:

- Planning and Organisation
- Creativity and Innovation
- Personal Effectiveness
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Competence

There are many online skills tests that help to highlight your strengths and weaknesses in these skills. Why not try some of these tests?

The 'Enterprise Catalyst' is a skills test/audit focusing on enterprise and business skills. Try it [here](#).

There is also a 'Mind tools' skills test can be found [here](#).



Task 3

What could you do to improve your skills? Try [this](#) skills development planning tool to consider how you could improve your skills. This is a detailed planning tool that encourages you to consider what skills you will need in your future.