

AIM Qualifications, Level 1 Award in Youth Work Specification

VERSION 1 November 2025



Document version history

Version number	Date	Description
1	May 2026	Document created

Contents

About us	1
Qualification specification for Level 1 Award in Youth Work	1
About this qualification specification.....	1
Offering this qualification.....	1
Section 1 – Qualification overview	2
Purpose of this qualification	3
Qualification details	4
Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF)	4
Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	4
Progression opportunities.....	5
Entry requirements	5
Resource requirements	5
Requirements to deliver this Qualification	5
Section 2 – Qualification structure	6
Qualification structure and components	7
Level descriptors	8
Section 3 – Assessment	11
How this qualification is assessed	12
Reasonable adjustment and special considerations	12
Section 4 – Operational guidance	13
Offering this qualification.....	14
Approval to offer qualifications	14
Registration and certification.....	14
Section 5 – Appendices and links.....	15
Link 1 - AIM Centre handbooks and forms.....	16
Link 2 - AIM Qualifications: Assessment Handbook.....	16
Link 3 - Fees and Charges	16
Link 4 - Qualification Search	16

Command verbs17

About us

Qualification specification for Level 1 Award in Youth Work

AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group is a leading Awarding Organisation supplying hundreds of centres with high-quality regulated vocational and technical qualifications. We also offer non-accredited provision and apprenticeship end-point assessments.

AIM qualifications cover a range of academic levels from Entry Level to Level 6 across a wide range of subject areas. All our UK Level 3 qualifications carry UCAS tariff points which can count towards university entry requirements.

About this qualification specification

This specification is intended for tutors, internal verifiers, centre managers and other staff within AIM recognised centres and/or prospective centres. It provides information about the structure and delivery of the qualification. The specification should be read in conjunction with the AIM Centre Handbook and other policy documents available on the website.

Offering this qualification

In order to offer this qualification, you must be an AIM recognised centre and be approved to deliver this qualification. If your centre is not yet recognised, please contact our business development team to discuss becoming an AIM recognised centre. They can advise you on the best qualifications for your organisation.

You can arrange a meeting by emailing businessdevelopment@aimgroup.org.uk or calling [0333 034 8833](tel:03330348833). More information can be found on: <https://www.aim-group.org.uk/centre-information/>



Section 1 – Qualification overview

Purpose of this qualification

The Level 1 Award in Youth Work is the first youth worker qualification on the NYA's [Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work](#).

This qualification is knowledge only and provides learners with an understanding of youth work, the role of youth workers, and the importance of safe and inclusive practice. Through the four mandatory units it introduces learners to the seven themes of the Standard Qualification Framework.

This qualification provides learners with the essential knowledge and understanding required to begin working in the youth work sector. It is suitable for anyone interested in exploring youth work as a career.

Qualification details

AIM Qualifications Level 1 Award in Youth Work	
Qualification Type	Occupational
Assessment	Portfolio of Evidence
Grading	Pass/Fail
Geographical coverage	England
Operational start date	01 September 2026
Review date	01/09/2029
Sector	1.3 Health and Social Care
Qualification number	610/7448/2
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	74
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	90
Minimum learner age	16+
Rules of combination	Learners must achieve the mandatory components to achieve this qualification.

Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF)

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) provides a single, simple system for cataloguing all qualifications regulated by Ofqual. Qualifications are indexed by their level and size. Levels indicate the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels supported by three “entry levels”. Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in term of Total Qualification Time (TQT). The part of the TQT spent being taught or supervised is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

Total Qualification Time (TQT) is the number of notional hours it takes a typical learner to achieve the full qualification and is **made up of two elements:**

- the minimum number of Qualification Guided Learning Hours (GLH) - the number of Tutor led contact hours
- the number of hours spent on preparation, studying and the assessment that is non-guided

For example, the number of tutor-led contact hours (GLH) for a qualification is 30 and the number of hours spent by the learner (non-GLH) on preparation, studying and the assessment is 6 hours. Therefore, the Total Qualification Time (TQT) for the qualification is 36 hours.

Level 1 Award in Youth Work

www.aimgroup.org.uk/qualifications
0333 034 8833

Progression opportunities

AIM has identified several routes into the youth work industry, including apprenticeships, entry-level roles, and higher education options.

Learners who achieve this qualification may progress to further youth work study at Level 2 and then Level 3 as they develop competence and gain experience. The qualification can also support progression into roles working with children and young people (for example, as a youth work volunteer, assistant/trainee youth worker or youth support worker, depending on organisational requirements), alongside further training in areas such as safeguarding, equality and diversity, and supporting young people's wellbeing.

- Progress to a Level 2 youth work qualification to build practical skills and supervised delivery experience.
- Progress to Level 3 youth work qualifications to develop competence to deliver sessions independently and broaden employment opportunities.
- Move into entry-level employment or volunteering in youth settings (e.g., youth clubs, community projects, schools, charities), with workplace induction and additional short courses as required.
- Use the knowledge gained to support progression to wider study/employment routes in related areas such as health and social care, education, childcare, community work and mentoring.

Entry requirements

It is recommended that learners have a minimum of Level 2 literacy and numeracy skills or Grade 4/C GCSE English and Maths, or equivalent.

Resource requirements

There are no specific resource requirements for these qualifications. Centres must ensure that they have the appropriate resources in place to deliver the unit in this qualification.

Requirements to deliver this Qualification

To offer this qualification, centres must ensure that tutors:

- Have a sound understanding of the Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work
- Hold or be working towards a relevant assessor qualification

- Be able to evidence continued professional development, including fieldwork activities, within the last 3 years

Centres must also ensure that they have in place an Internal Quality Assurance person who:

- Have recent experience (within the last three years) of internal quality assurance preferably within an occupational area with relevance to youth work
- Have a sound understanding of the Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work
- Hold or be working towards an Internal Quality Assurance qualification (i.e. D.34, V1)
- Be committed to, and able to evidence, further training and development



Section 2 – Qualification structure



Qualification structure and components

This section details the rules of combinations for the qualifications. Select the component titles to view the component details.

Rules of combination for:		Aim Qualifications Level 1 Award in Youth Work		
Learners must achieve the mandatory components to achieve this qualification.				
Component code	Component title	Level	Credit	GLH
Mandatory				
R/652/1622	Youth work theory, communication and settings	1	2	16
T/652/1623	Planning, reviewing, and reflection	1	3	25
Y/652/1624	The importance of children and young people's development in youth work	1	3	25
A/652/1625	Safe and inclusive practice in youth work	1	1	8

Level descriptors

Components are assigned a level based in the current requirements for the RQF as issued by OFQUAL.

Level	Knowledge descriptor	Skills descriptor
Level 1	Has basic factual knowledge of a subject and/or knowledge of facts, procedures and ideas to complete well-defined routine tasks and address simple problems; and Is aware of aspects of information relevant to the area of study or work.	Use basic cognitive and practical skills to complete well-defined routine tasks. Select and use relevant information. Identify whether actions have been effective.



Section 3 – Assessment



How this qualification is assessed

The Level 1 Award in Youth Work is a knowledge based qualification which introduces learners to Youth Work and the role of Youth Workers.

Assessment evidence must, wherever possible, be holistic. This means that rather than collecting individual pieces of evidence for each assessment criterion, learners must gather evidence to illustrate knowledge and understanding.

Guidance on our expectations is available in the [AIM Qualifications: Assessment Handbook](#).

Assessment method	Overview
Portfolio of Evidence	Evidence must link across all units and be authentic, current, sufficient, fit for purpose and valid

Reasonable adjustment and special considerations

Reasonable adjustments and Special Considerations are available for all assessments, irrespective of whether they are internally or externally set. Where a learner or group of learners may not be able to access the assessment without Reasonable Adjustments, centres should ensure that they apply in good time for relevant reasonable adjustments to be made, using the [AIM Qualifications Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy](#) which gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.



Section 4 – Operational guidance



Offering this qualification

Centres wishing to offer this qualification must be an AIM recognised centre. New centres can apply to become a centre using the centre recognition application process on our website: www.aim-group.org.uk.

We can advise centres of the best and most efficient methods for offering this qualification. All procedures for the use of this qualification, including approval, registration of learners, verification and certification will be completed through AIM and all centres will have an allocated customer experience advisor to support them.

Approval to offer qualifications

Centres wishing to offer this qualification must complete and submit a qualification approval request. This can be found on the [AIM website when choosing a qualification](#). Some qualifications require centres to have specific resources in place and/or their assessors/internal verifiers should hold certain qualifications. Where this is the case, centres must provide evidence of resources/staff qualifications when completing the Qualification Approval request.

Registration and certification

Once your centre has approval to offer a qualification, you will be able to register learners to these qualifications via our Quartzweb portal, at this point you can also select their chosen components. Please ensure that learners are registered against the correct qualification and are aware of the rules of combination required to achieve the qualification.

For all registration and certification processes, please refer to the Quartzweb guidance document which can be downloaded from our website's [centre handbooks and forms page](#). Details of assessment, internal verification and external verification can be found in the [AIM Qualifications: Assessment Handbook](#).

Learners achieving a qualification will be issued with a qualification certificate detailing the achieved qualification and components. Learners who have not achieved a qualification will, on request, be issued with a component certificate detailing the components achieved.



Section 5 – Appendices and links



Appendices and links

Select an appendix or link from the list below to view the document.

Useful links

Link 1 - [AIM Centre handbooks and forms](#)

Link 2 - [AIM Qualifications: Assessment Handbook](#)

Link 3 - [Fees and Charges](#)

Link 4 - [Qualification Search](#)

Useful appendices

Appendix 1 – Command Verbs

Command verbs

Level 1	
Compare	Looking at similarities and differences.
Demonstrate	Complete a practical task or activity to show competence.
Describe	Write or speak about the topic or activity.
Give (an example of...)	Provide relevant examples for the topic.
Give ways	Provide information about how to support the topic.
Identify	List or name the main points
Illustrate	Give clear information with examples (e.g. spoken, written, pictures, diagrams etc)
List	State or make a list of items, words, statements or comments
Outline	Identify briefly the main points
State	Give the main points in brief, clear sentences
Summarise	Briefly present the main points

All levels	
Calculate	Work out a numerical problem, showing how they arrived at their answer.