



*Rewarding Learning*

# GCSE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

STUDENT  
GUIDE



# INTRODUCTION

The specification supports the aim of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives, as well as its objectives:

- to develop the young person as an individual;
- to develop the young person as a contributor to society; and
- to develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment.

All students study Unit 1: Digital Technology. They then choose either the multimedia or the programming route and study the relevant two units for their chosen route.



## WHY STUDY DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY?

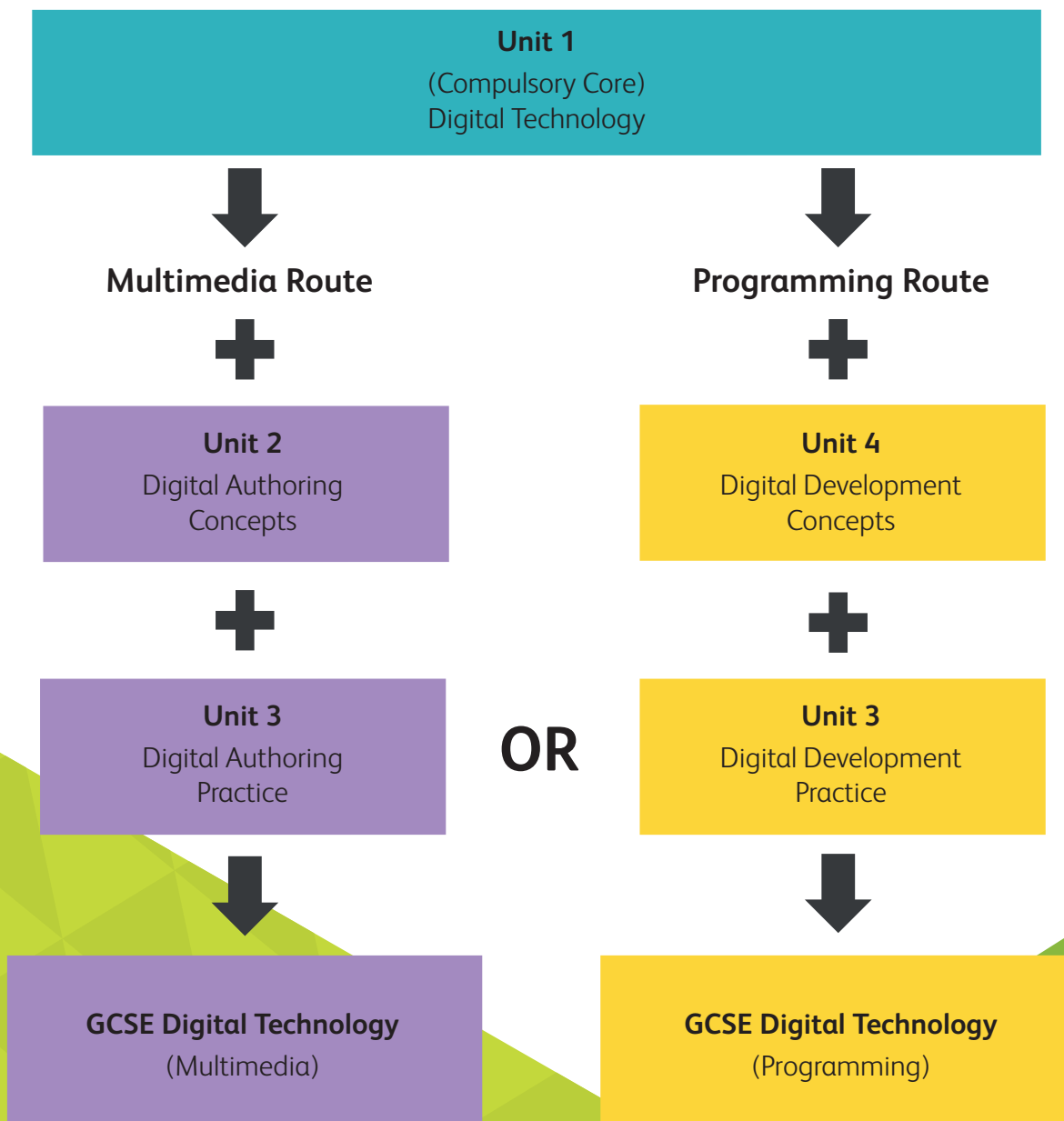
In GCSE Digital Technology, there is a choice of two routes of study: Route A, Multimedia, or Route B, Programming. This qualification is unique in the UK.

## UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

The following are important features of this specification.

- It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- This qualification is available as:
  - a digital authoring qualification focusing on multimedia, GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia); and
  - a digital development qualification focusing on programming, GCSE Digital Technology (Programming).

# HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?



## ROUTE A: MULTIMEDIA

CONTENT		ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Compulsory core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hour	30%	Summer from 2018
Multimedia units	Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	40%	Summer from 2019
	Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice	Controlled assessment	30%	Summer from 2019



Unit 1

Digital Technology  
30%



Unit 2

Digital Authoring  
Concepts  
40%



Unit 3

Digital Authoring  
Practice  
30%

## ROUTE B: PROGRAMMING

CONTENT		ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Compulsory core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hour	30%	Summer from 2018
Programming units	Unit 4: Digital Development Concepts	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	40%	Summer from 2019
	Unit 5: Digital Development Practice	Controlled assessment	30%	Summer from 2019



Unit 1

Digital Technology  
30%



Unit 4

Digital Development  
Concepts  
40%



Unit 5

Digital Development  
Practice  
30%

## WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for you to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities will be dependent on the teaching and learning methodology used.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY?

It's a good time to be working in IT and computing. Research by e-skills UK shows that the sector is one of the fastest-moving and most dynamic in the UK – currently employing 1 in 20 of us. It's estimated that over half a million new entrants will be needed to fill jobs in this sector over the next five years.

There are opportunities for IT and computing graduates across all industries, including retail, financial services, telecommunications, broadcast media, digital media, manufacturing, transport, tourism, the public sector and healthcare – with strong growth and demand in cyber security, mobile development, cloud computing and the management of big data.



