



**The National Examination  
Board in Occupational Safety  
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# International General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety

## Qualification guide for learners

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# Qualification overview

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## Qualification key features

<b>Unit prefixes and title/s</b>	<b>Unit GIC1:</b> Management of health and safety <b>Unit GIC2:</b> Risk assessment	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Assessment Type</b> <b>Assessment Time</b>	
Unit GIC1	Open book examination (OBE)	5 hours
Unit GIC2	Practical assessment	4 hours
<b>Modes of study</b>	Taught (face-to-face), open and distance learning Part-time Block release eLearning	
<b>Qualification level and number of credits</b>	SCQF Level 6 (Equivalent to RQF Level 3) Unit GIC1: 5 credits, Unit GIC2: 6 credits	
<b>Entry requirements</b>	None	
<b>Recommended minimum standards of English</b>	Equivalent to an International English Language Testing System score of 6.0 or higher in IELTS tests	
<b>Languages available</b>	English, Arabic, French, Portuguese (European), Russian, Spanish (European) and Turkish Note: Open book examinations in languages other than English cannot be taken in the UK	
<b>Pass standard</b>	The provisional pass mark for GIC1 is 45% The pass standard for GIC2 is contained in the GIC2 guidance More information on how provisional marks are set can be found in our FAQs	
<b>Qualification grades</b>	The qualification grade is based on the result from Unit GIC1 Distinction: 75 marks or higher Credit: 65 - 74 marks Pass: 45 - 64 marks	

# Qualification summary



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## Who is the qualification designed for?

This qualification is designed for anyone (managers, supervisors and workers) in any type of organisation. It's ideal for anyone who needs a broad understanding of health and safety issues to be able to manage day-to-day risks effectively. Many people take the International General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (IGC) as a first step in a career in health and safety. It gives a valuable overview, and is a sound basis for further professional study.

## Benefits for you

The IGC looks at everyday solutions for general workplace health and safety issues. When you have completed the qualification, you will be able to:

- justify the need for health and safety improvements;
- advise on the main duties for health and safety in the workplace;
- help their organisation to manage contractors;
- work within a health and safety management system;
- positively influence health and safety culture and behaviour;
- carry out a general risk assessment (using a 5-step approach) of their workplace;
- recognise workplace changes and their impacts and understand how to minimise these impacts;
- develop basic safe systems of work that include emergency arrangements and know when to use a permit-to-work system;
- take part in incident investigations; and
- help their employer check the effectiveness of the health and safety management system through monitoring, auditing and review.



*"The NEBOSH IGC provided a strong foundation in risk management, workplace hazards, and legal compliance—key competencies I needed to excel in health and safety.... [it] was a game-changer. It gave me credibility and boosted my confidence in engaging with senior leaders on safety matters. It also helped me secure more significant roles where I could influence workplace safety culture. Beyond that, the knowledge I gained allowed me to implement practical and cost-effective safety solutions that had a direct impact on reducing workplace risks."*

**Abanum Isakpa**

# Qualification summary

## Benefits for your employer

When you achieve the IGC, you will be a huge asset to your employer. You will make a real difference in the workplace. You will have the knowledge, understanding and skills to help protect the health and safety of all workers. You will also be able help your employer to comply with the law and good practice, as well as help them avoid the huge costs from incidents and ill-health.

## Professional membership

Once you have your qualification parchment for the IGC, you can apply for the following memberships:

Membership body	Membership category	Designatory letters
International Institute of Risk and Safety Management	Associate	AIIRSM
Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)	Associate	AIOSH
	Technical	Tech IOSH

## Syllabus development and review

The syllabus has been developed by NEBOSH following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, notably Learning Partners, employers, standards-setting organisations, past and present learners and subject experts. NEBOSH would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the development of the revised IGC, but in particular the following:

- ARM cement PLC;
- Traffic Tech (Gulf) W.L.L;

- Sainsbury's;
- Kier group; and
- SEGRO.

## Achieving the qualification

The IGC has two unit assessments; you must achieve a 'Pass' in each unit in order to be awarded the qualification.

You will have **five years** to complete your qualification. The five-year period starts from the date you passed your first successful unit (we call this the 'declaration date'). Any unit that is five or more years old will not count towards the qualification; you will need to retake this/these unit(s) if you still want to complete the qualification.

## Re-sitting unit(s)

You can re-sit a unit assessment if:

- you achieved a 'Pass' in a unit that is five or more years old and you need it to achieve the qualification;
- you are 'Referred' (ie, don't pass); or
- you want to re-sit Unit GIC1 to get a higher grade (Unit GIC2 is 'Pass' or 'Refer' and does not count towards the qualification grade).

There is no limit to the number of times you can re-sit unit(s) within the five-year period. A refund will not be given if you register to re-sit a unit before an original unit result is known. If your re-sit result is lower than the original mark, you will keep the original mark awarded for the unit. Re-sit marks are not capped.

## Re-sitting GIC1 to improve the grade

If you want to try to improve your grade in Unit GIC1, you need to tell us in writing within 20 working days of the declaration date of your second successful unit. Otherwise, a qualification parchment will automatically be issued showing the original declaration date.

# Qualification summary

## Individual learner feedback

For more information on the assessment feedback provided for this qualification, please visit the NEBOSH website.

## Finding where to study

You can search for Learning Partners (the people that provide your training course) using the 'Where to study' tab on our website.

Note: it is best to check directly with the Learning Partner for up-to-date information on course dates.

## Qualification grading and issue of qualification parchment

Your qualification grade is based only on the result from the question paper (Unit GIC1). But you need to achieve a 'Pass' in both units (GIC1 and GIC2) before the parchment can be issued. The grading boundaries are as follows:

75+	Distinction
65-74	Credit
45-64	Pass
0-44	Refer

When you have completed both units, you are normally considered to have completed the whole qualification. We will then send you a qualification parchment within 40 working days of your final successful unit. We will only issue individual unit certificates on written request.

Once we issue the result of the second successful unit, you have 20 working days to either:

- tell us in writing that you want to re-sit a successful unit to improve your grade (see 'Re-sitting unit(s)' for further information); or
- submit an Enquiry About Result (EAR) request; please see the EAR policy for further information.



*"When I did my research, the name NEBOSH kept coming up, so I decided to take the NEBOSH International General Certificate. It has given me great insight into not just the technical aspects, but also the whole management side of things. During my studies I came across people from other industries, who helped me realise it doesn't matter which industry you work in, the root causes of accidents and the ways to manage and control risks are often the same. I now see NEBOSH as a bridge in terms of my career. This qualification gives me a good entry point for a health and safety specific career and has opened up my options for working onshore too."*

**Sooraj Jacob**



# Syllabus

# Syllabus

## Syllabus summary

Element		Assessment
<b>1</b>	Why we should manage workplace health and safety	Open book examination (OBE)  Unit GIC1: Management of health and safety  Elements 1.1, 1.2, 2 and 3 are also assessed by the practical assessment (Unit GIC2)
<b>2</b>	How health and safety management systems work and what they look like	
<b>3</b>	Managing risk – understanding people and processes	
<b>4</b>	Health and safety monitoring and measuring	
<b>5</b>	Physical and psychological health	Practical assessment  Unit GIC2: Risk assessment
<b>6</b>	Musculoskeletal health	
<b>7</b>	Chemical and biological agents	
<b>8</b>	General workplace issues	
<b>9</b>	Work equipment	
<b>10</b>	Fire	
<b>11</b>	Electricity	

# Syllabus

## Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcome The learner will be able to:	Related content	Assessment criteria	Assessment
Understand how to justify health and safety improvements using moral, financial and legal arguments	<b>1.1–1.2</b>	Discuss the moral, financial and legal reasons for managing health and safety in the workplace Recognise how health and safety is regulated	GIC1, GIC2
Understand when the main duties for health and safety apply to the workplace and the important role that contractors undertake in the workplace and how they should be managed	<b>1.3</b>	Recognise the main health and safety duties of different groups of people at work Describe how contractors should be selected, monitored and managed	GIC1
Work within a health and safety management system, and know what an effective health and safety policy should look like	<b>2.1–2.2</b>	Identify the key components of a health and safety management system (ISO 45001 and ILO-OSH2001) Recognise the benefits and limitations of different types of health and safety management systems Recognise the key components of an effective health and safety policy	GIC1, GIC2
Positively influence health and safety culture and behaviour to improve performance in their organisation	<b>3.1–3.3</b>	Recognise how health and safety culture influences performance Recognise how to improve health and safety culture at work Outline how human factors influence behaviour in a way that can affect health and safety	GIC1, GIC2
Assess general workplace risks	<b>1.1 1.2 3.4 (5–11)</b>	Apply the principles of the risk assessment process and Produce a suitable and sufficient risk assessment	GIC1, GIC2

# Syllabus

Learning outcome The learner will be able to:	Related content	Assessment criteria	Assessment
Understand the impact of workplace changes and on health and safety and how these can be managed	<b>3.5</b>	Describe how change can have significant health and safety impacts and how to manage those impacts	GIC, GIC2
Develop safe systems of work and emergency procedures, and know how to use them appropriately	<b>3.6–3.8</b>	Outline what to consider when developing and implementing a safe system of work for general work activities  Identify the role, function and operation of a permit-to-work system  Understand typical emergency procedures (including training and testing), and how to decide what level of first aid is needed in the workplace	GIC, GIC2
Take part in incident investigations	<b>4.1</b>	Recognise why and how incidents should be investigated, recorded and reported	GIC1
Help their employer to monitor the effectiveness of their health and safety management system	<b>4.2–4.4</b>	Recognise how to monitor the effectiveness of management systems  Recognise why and how audits are used to evaluate a management system  Recognise why regular reviews of health and safety performance are needed and how they are carried out	GIC1
Understand a range of common workplace hazards and their associated risks and recommend suitable control measures.	<b>5–11</b>	Describe hazards present in the workplace and associated risks  Outline existing control measures  Evaluate existing control measures  Explain suitable additional control measures	GIC2