

VDS Pro Level 1 Driver Readiness

Course content, qualification route, study time and the evidence boundary between simulator learning and regulated assessment.

Qualification route

Designed for use toward the NCFE Level 1 Award in Personal and Social Development (501/0672/7) through an approved centre. Otherwise describe it as Level 1-aligned enrichment.

Print-friendly by design

White pages, restrained colour, light table shading and no full-page dark fills. Reviewed 19 August 2026.

VDS Pro simulator activity supports evidence but does not itself award a regulated qualification or establish real-road driving competence.

1. Course at a glance

Item	Course decision
Learners	Primarily age 14+, including mainstream, SEND, alternative provision, post-16, community and driving-school learners
Delivery	35 lessons of 2 guided hours; 70 GLH in total
Standard room	1 or more licensed simulator stations; supervised learner waves matched to available capacity
Current preset	level-1-driver-readiness: 11 simulator modules
Assessment	Portfolio, tutor observation, discussion, learner products and VDS Pro evidence
Regulated route	NCFE Level 1 Award in Personal and Social Development (501/0672/7), through an approved centre

Public wording

Before centre approval: 'Level 1-aligned'. After a centre approves delivery: 'Designed for delivery toward the NCFE Level 1 Award in Personal and Social Development through approved centres.' Never call it an NVQ or DVSA qualification.

2. Exact NCFE unit combination

Unit	Ref	Credit	GLH	Main course contribution
02 Developing self	K/502/0469	2	20	Baseline, personal development plan, practice, review and continued development
03 Dealing with problems in daily life	L/502/0464	2	20	Recognise a learner problem, plan and carry out a response, review effectiveness
06 Individual rights and responsibilities	K/502/0472	1	10	Rights, barriers, support, lawfulness and responsibility to self and others
11 Preparation for work	J/502/0477	2	20	Employability skills, career research, role matching and application information
Total		7	70	Four Group A units, all at Level 1

NCFE publishes the Award as 7 credits, 70 GLH and 70 TQT, with a minimum of four Group A units and at least five credits at Level 1 or above. This selection totals exactly 7 credits and all credits are Level 1.

3. What the simulator already provides

- Tutorials, controls, junctions, traffic lights, roundabouts, speed management, pedestrians and crossings, lane discipline, guided drives, Career Drives and tests.
- Theory-test learning and mocks, hazard-perception practice and practical mock-test routes in the wider product.
- Assignments, attempts, module states, scores, time, dates, conditions, incidents, learner notes, instructor notes, feedback and next steps.
- A repeatable setting in which learners can act on feedback and compare performance over time.

4. Teaching added around the simulator

- Personal strengths, development planning and formal review.
- A taught problem-solving process with resources, action and review.
- Rights, equality, barriers, reasonable adjustments and sources of help.
- Responsibilities, vulnerable road users, phone use, fatigue, impairment and incident response.
- Job-role research, skills matching and application preparation.
- Portfolio indexing, authenticity declarations, assessor decisions and internal quality assurance.

Evidence boundary

Completion flags, scores and VDS certificates are supporting evidence. Only the approved centre's assessor can decide whether an NCFE criterion has been achieved.

5. The 35-lesson pathway

Unit 02: Developing self (20 hours)

Lesson	Focus	Simulator/workshop	Main evidence
1	Induction and baseline	Tutorials; Moving Off	Safety/setup record, baseline result and declaration
2	Strengths and abilities	Basics observation and controls	Two strengths or abilities with examples
3	Choose a development area	Mirrors, signalling or steering comparison	Chosen area and explanation
4	Build a development plan	Targets, activities, timescales and reviews	Signed development plan
5	Planned practice 1	Selected Basics lesson	Attempt record and observer note
6	Planned practice 2	Junctions introduction	Attempt record and reflection
7	Use feedback and amend	Tutor conference and repeated task	Feedback record and amended action
8	Planned practice 3	Traffic Lights or Roundabouts	Before/after comparison
9	Review the plan	Compare baseline and current performance	Structured plan review
10	Continue development	Tests checkpoint and next step	Unit review and continuation plan

Unit 03: Dealing with problems in daily life (20 hours)

Lesson	Focus	Simulator/workshop	Main evidence
11	Recognise a straightforward problem	Review a recurring learner issue	Problem and effects description
12	Generate possible responses	Junction and observation case studies	At least two responses
13	Select and agree a response	Tutor discussion and solution choice	Agreed response and reason
14	Plan the activities	Step-by-step planning workshop	Activity plan
15	Find resources and support	Highway Code, tutor and accessibility help	Resource/support list
16	Carry out the plan 1	Targeted simulator practice	Attempt and witness record
17	Carry out the plan 2	Speed or crossing practice	Attempt and learner log
18	Incident and breakdown problem	Scenario cards and safe sequence	Incident-response task
19	Review the approach	Compare evidence and discuss effectiveness	What went well and less well
20	Is the problem solved?	Reassessment or supported alternative	Decision and next action

Unit 06: Individual rights and responsibilities (10 hours)

Lesson	Focus	Simulator/workshop	Main evidence
21	Rights and equality	Rights examples and respectful participation	Rights worksheet
22	Barriers and adjustments	Access/setup audit and case studies	Two barriers and adjustments
23	Sources of support	School, family and specialist help	Two sources and how each helps
24	Responsibilities to self and others	Phone, fatigue, impairment and crossings	Responsibility/risk worksheet
25	Demonstrate responsibility	School-zone or vulnerable-user scenario	Witnessed action and review

Unit 11: Preparation for work (20 hours)

Lesson	Focus	Simulator/workshop	Main evidence
26	What employers need	Punctuality, communication and safe conduct	Skills and qualities worksheet
27	Own skills and achievements	VDS Pro progress evidence audit	Personal profile
28	Connect evidence to work	Guided Drive and observer feedback	Skills-to-evidence map
29	Areas for improvement	Tutor review and planning	Two improvement areas
30	Explore job roles	Transport and non-transport research	Research on a range of roles
31	Career Drive: delivery	Safe decisions under time pressure	Attempt and employability reflection
32	Career Drive: service	Communication, customer needs and safety	Attempt and observer record
33	Match skills to a role	Compare personal profile with one role	Role-match statement
34	Prepare application information	Mock form or personal statement	Application information
35	Final portfolio and progression	Theory/mock assessment and presentation	Authenticated portfolio and next step

6. Qualification routes compared

Route	Current size/status	When to use it
NCFE L1 Award in Personal and Social Development 501/0672/7	7 credits; 70 GLH/TQT; internally assessed and externally quality assured	Recommended main route. Exact four-unit combination is mapped in this pack.
Pearson BTEC L1 Subsidiary Award in WorkSkills 603/7624/7	One 35-hour unit; registration currently shown to 31 Aug 2029	A short accredited option for existing Pearson centres.
Pearson BTEC L1 Award in WorkSkills 603/7625/9	Two 35-hour units; 70 GLH/TQT; registration currently shown to 31 Aug 2029	Alternative for centres already running WorkSkills.
City & Guilds L1 Award in Employability Skills 601/3629/7	6 credits; 60 TQT; last registration currently shown as 31 Aug 2027	Only where an existing City & Guilds centre prefers it.
VDS Pro completion certificate	Unregulated	Enrichment or pilots where no awarding-body registration is in place.

7. Route to a real qualification

- Secure one approved centre as pilot partner and obtain curriculum/quality approval for the selected units.
- Convert tasks into the centre's controlled assessment briefs and criterion tracker; have the IQA approve them before learner use.
- Register the pilot learners, complete baselines, deliver all 70 guided hours and retain attendance evidence.
- Assess every criterion, authenticate learner work, record adjustments and complete internal quality assurance.
- Present the sample through NCFE external quality assurance and claim successful learners through the centre.
- Review external feedback before scaling or pursuing a bespoke named qualification.

8. Official sources checked

- NCFE Level 1 Award in Personal and Social Development qualification page and qualification specification, checked 19 August 2026.
- Pearson BTEC Level 1 WorkSkills qualification page and Issue 2 specification (May 2025).
- City & Guilds Employability Skills 5546 current qualification page, last updated 14 January 2026.
- Awarding-body requirements always take precedence over this contextualised delivery pack.