



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI10541/2015
Army Sec/04/02/76118

E-mail: ArmySec-group@mod.uk
Website: www.army.mod.uk

16 December 2015

Thank you for your email of 25 November where you requested the following:

'Can you please tell me what are the accredited courses of education that all new army recruits aged under 18 are required to complete as a minimum at: a) ITC Catterick and b) ATC Pirbright.

Also please can you tell me what accredited courses recruits are required to complete if they arrive to train when they hold qualifications that are equivalent to (or at a higher educational level than) the standard courses provided to other recruits.'

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Since 2012 the Army has used the Functional Skills framework as the measure for demonstrating literacy and numeracy skills attainment. Recruits, regardless of age, who arrive as sub-Entry Level 3 complete a Functional Skills course to achieve accredited certification at Entry Level 3 for English and Maths.

Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Catterick

All recruits at ITC are enrolled onto the Combat Infantryman's Apprenticeship (Level 2 qualification). Although they embark upon this at Catterick, they complete it as trained personnel. All recruits who complete the Combat Infantryman's Course achieve a City & Guilds Level 1 certificate for Effectiveness at Work. Junior Entry Infantry recruits arriving to Catterick from the Army Foundation College Harrogate will have completed numeracy and literacy functional skills at Level 1 as a minimum while at Harrogate.

Army Training Centre (Pirbright) - Initial Training Group (ITG)

All recruits (Regular and Reserve) on completion of Phase 1 training at ITG units - regardless of age or previous educational achievement - will be accredited with the Level 1 Effectiveness at Work qualification in accordance with the Army Skills Offer.

Army Entry Standards

The minimum standards of Literacy and Numeracy for soldier entry are shown in the following table:

	Standards	Literacy	Numeracy
1	Army Entry Standard	Regular - EL2 Reserve - EL3	Regular - EL2 Reserve - EL3
2.	Phase 2 Entry Standard	EL3	EL3
3.	Within 3 years of joining the Army (Regulars only)	L1	L1

Further details about the Army Skills Offer are available at the following link:
http://www.army.mod.uk/training_education/25782.aspx .

Accreditation is defined in the above as being a qualification that is achieved by the individual taking into account military courses attended and/or experience in the workplace. Course work may be required by Distance Learning in order to achieve the qualification.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat