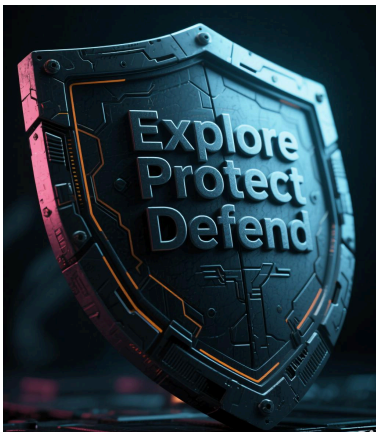
Cambridge Advanced Nationals (AAQ) in Cyber Security & Networks



Course Length: 2 Years | Level: 3 | Equivalent to: 1 A Level | Exam Board: OCR

Course Overview

Cyber security is one of the fastest-growing and most in-demand industries in the world. This course is designed for students who are curious about how technology works — and how to protect it. The **OCR Level 3 AAQ in Cyber Security & Networks** gives learners the knowledge, skills, and confidence to understand, design, and secure modern computer systems.

The qualification combines academic study with hands-on practical experience. Students will explore how networks operate, how cyber-attacks happen, and what can be done to prevent them. It's ideal for those considering careers in cyber security, IT infrastructure, or network engineering, or for anyone wanting to progress to university-level study in computing or related disciplines.

Units You Will Study:

We deliver five key units that provide a comprehensive foundation in both theory and practice:

- **F193 Fundamentals of Cyber Security -** Students explore the key principles of cyber security, understanding common threats, attack methods, and how individuals and organisations can defend against them.
- **F194 Fundamentals of Networks -** This unit introduces how data is transmitted across networks, the hardware and software involved, and the protocols that keep systems communicating efficiently and securely.
- **F195 Preventing Cyber Attacks -** Learners apply practical techniques to identify vulnerabilities, mitigate risks, and implement policies that reduce the likelihood of successful attacks.
- **F196 Digital Forensic Investigation -** This unit allows students to investigate simulated security incidents, collect and analyse digital evidence, and understand the legal and ethical considerations of forensic work.
- **F198 Implementing Secure Local Area Networks (LANs) -** A practical project where students design, configure, and secure a local area network, applying professional tools and techniques to test and document their work.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a combination of:

- **Externally assessed exams** (for core units F193 and F194)
- **Non-exam assessments (coursework)** (for applied units F195, F196 and F198)

This structure allows students to demonstrate both theoretical understanding and technical competence.

Progression and Career Opportunities

Upon completion, students gain a qualification recognised by UCAS and industry alike. It supports progression to:

- University degrees in Cyber Security, Computer Science, or IT Networking
- Degree apprenticeships in digital or technical roles
- Employment in IT support, network management, or security analysis

Cyber security professionals are in growing demand across government, business, and education sectors — making this course both academically valuable and career-relevant.

Why Choose This Course at Robert Clack School?

- Delivered by experienced computing specialists with industry knowledge
- Access to dedicated computer labs and secure virtual network environments
- Practical, project-based learning linked to real-world cyber challenges
- Opportunities to develop employability skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking