



**BUILDING
SKILLS
TOGETHER**

**Teacher's Guide
ESOL for Construction
& CSCS Test Preparation**

Introduction

There are an increasing number of refugees in the UK with excellent trades skills, including painting and decorating, stonework, plastering, bricklaying to name a few. With the exodus of many EU workers after Brexit, and the expansion of the house-building industry, there has never been a better time to match supply with demand.

To work on a construction site, all employees need a CSCS Health and Safety Card. An explanation of the card and the process for gaining it can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bPBD2Xsf-G8LoH4srj1lehm4NRslmu4iliuMFYrJzfQ/edit?usp=sharing>

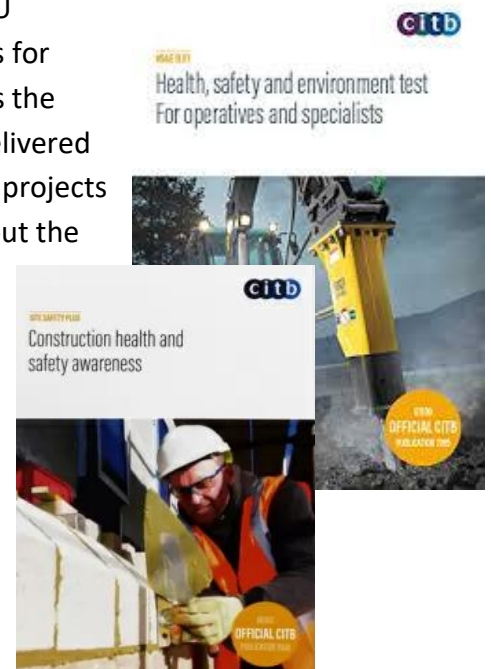
Building Skills for Construction was a New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery project led by Dundee City Council in partnership with Fife and Clackmannanshire Councils and WEA Scotland (the Workers Educational Association), which aimed to help skilled refugees gain the certification they need to work in the construction industry. Many of those resettled in Scotland through schemes set up in response to foreign conflicts are highly skilled individuals from a construction background, all of whom have the right to work in the UK, but not necessarily the correct qualifications, professional registrations or knowledge about how to enter the Scottish Construction Industry.

The partners received funding from the Scottish Government and the EU Asylum Migration and Integration Fund, to develop two training courses for beginner and intermediate students, aiming to give non-native speakers the language and knowledge they need to pass the CSCS operatives test. Delivered by English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers, seven pilot projects were carried out in Dundee, Fife, Clackmannanshire and online to test out the materials with skilled refugees.

The resources are based on the CITB Health Safety and Environment Test for Operatives and Specialists Test book:

<https://shop.citb.co.uk/hs-e-test-for-operatives-specialists?GT100>
and the accompanying manual: <https://shop.citb.co.uk/site-safety-plus-ssp-publications/health-safety-awareness-ge707->

Both are available to order as hard copies or online downloads.



ESOL for Construction & CSCS Test Preparation Course

This course is based on presentations covering each topic area of the test. There are 16 topic areas grouped into themes in the practice test book, hence the codes. See the chart below.

There is also:

- an introductory presentation “What is the CSCS card?”
- a case studies/behavioural presentation
- a presentation covering the different question types in the test

How to use the presentations online or in class

- Each presentation covers the main points of the topic with a mixture of text and visuals. It’s very useful for learners to have Google translate open on their phones if in the classroom, or the teacher has it open on a tab during the presentation via teams or ZOOM.
- Each presentation has at least one YouTube video. There are many YouTube videos on each of these topics, so you may find one more appropriate to your class.
- At the end of the presentation there is a link to 20 practice questions on the topic. Students can attempt these in groups or individually, or as a whole class.
- There are 700 possible questions in all for the test, but many of them repeat the same information in a slightly different way. This course has not had the scope to cover all the possible permutations of questions, but offers a good grounding to prepare students for the test.

Readings

There is a collection of supplementary readings for higher level students. These are for topical interest only and do not feature in the test.

Content

CODE	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
	What is the CSCS card?	An overview of the different cards and the test process
A	WORKING ENVIRONMENT	
A01.1	General Responsibilities	Site induction
A01.2	General Responsibilities	Hazards, risks and near misses
A02	Accidents at Work	Reporting and recording accidents
A03	First Aid and Emergency Procedures	An interactive story
A04	Personal Protective Equipment	Video lessons
A05	Environmental awareness	Environmental awareness and waste control
B	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	
B06	Dust and Fumes	Respiratory illnesses
B07	Noise and Vibration	Hearing loss and hand=arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)
B08.1	Health and Welfare	Other work-related diseases
B08.2	Health and Welfare	Mental health and stress
B09	Manual Handling	How to avoid injury
C	SAFETY	
C10	Safety Signs	Safety signs and their meaning
C11	Fire Safety	Fire prevention and control
C12.1	Electrical Safety	Employer and employee responsibilities
C12.2	Electrical Safety	All about electricity



D	HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES	
D13	Site Machinery	Site transport and lifting operations
D14.1	Working at Height	Ladders and stepladders
D14.2	Working at Height	Scaffolding, MEWPs, and height safety equipment
D15	Excavations and Confined Spaces	Working safely in confined spaces
D16.1	Hazardous Substances	Hazardous substances symbols and their meanings
TEST PREPARATION		
	Case Studies	Behavioural questions based on-site situations
	CSCS Test - The Four Question Types	Prepare for the different question types in the test



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

These materials were developed by Clare Cameron, WEA Scotland, for the Building Skills Together Project.

For more information about this
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Building Skills Together is a New Scots Refugee Integration Development Project and is a partnership between WEA Scotland, Dundee City, Fife and Clackmannanshire Councils.



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