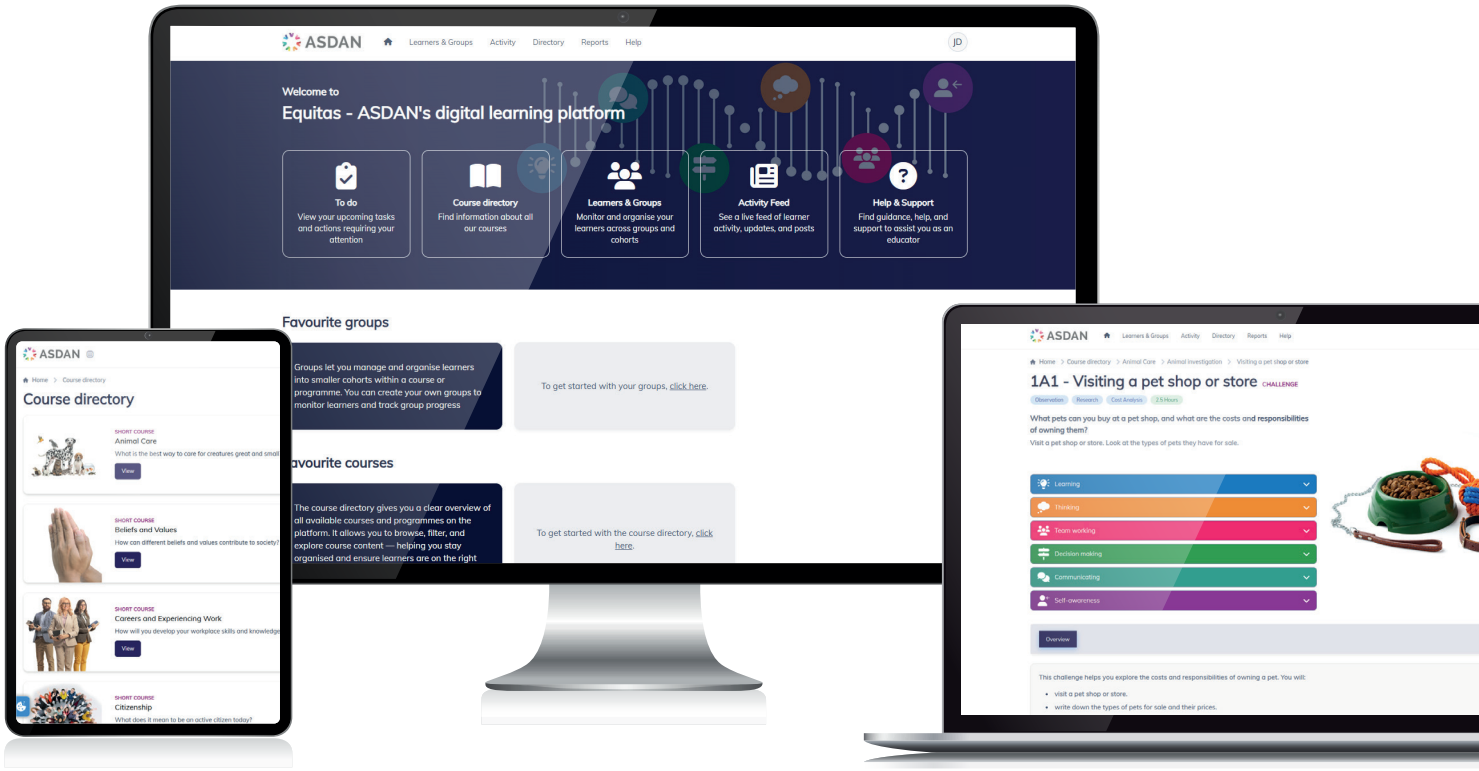

Delivering ASDAN Short Courses using Equitas

Guidance for ASDAN members
November 2025

ASDAN

asdan.org.uk/digital-learning

Introducing Equitas – ASDAN's digital learning platform

ASDAN's new digital learning platform, Equitas, is transforming how learners plan, do and review their work.

Built using feedback from educators and learners, Equitas has been shaped around what matters most – flexibility, simplicity and learner agency. It's designed to make every stage of learning more engaging and accessible, while supporting educators to track progress and celebrate achievement.

A better way to capture learning and skills development

Equitas has been designed so that learners can log in and interact with the platform while they are working through their course. They can view challenges, upload evidence and track their skills development.

Equitas has also been designed to deliver courses with learners who are working offline. Educators can download their chosen challenges in PDF format and create personalised student books for learners, who can gather evidence in any format. Educators can then upload evidence to their learners' Equitas accounts and administrate the course online.

This means that Equitas can be used to support learning that is fully online, fully offline or blended – with all of the flexibility and learner choice that is embedded in ASDAN courses.

ASDAN courses available on Equitas

The following Short Courses will be available to deliver using Equitas from the initial launch in November 2025:

- Animal Care
- Beliefs and Values
- Careers and Experiencing Work
- Citizenship
- Environmental
- Expressive Arts
- Football
- Gardening
- History
- PSHE
- Sports and Fitness

Following the initial launch, ASDAN will be reviewing, updating and uploading a wider range of Short Courses and other programmes to the platform throughout 2025 and 2026, including:

- English Short Course
- Esports Short Course
- FoodWise Short Course
- Languages Short Course
- Leadership Short Course
- Mathematics Short Course
- Peer Mentoring Short Vourse
- Science Short Course
- PSHE Short Course
- Volunteering Short Course
- Key Steps
- Moving On
- Personal Development Programmes
- Personal Effectiveness Qualifications

ASDAN Short Courses on Equitas – what's changed?

There are some fundamental differences between the original Short Course student books and the versions of the Short Courses now available on Equitas.

In addition to the changes detailed below, Short Course challenges on Equitas may also include changes to the challenge content (eg changes to wording, updated examples, new challenges, updated module titles). For that reason, we advise that members choose **one** format (ie student books **or** Equitas) to use with all learners within a group.

Challenge format

Challenges in the Short Course student books are brief open-ended prompts.

Short Course challenges on Equitas include more content, in the following sections:

- **Challenge title and a driving question** – a short introduction to the what, why and how of the challenge.
- **Challenge description** – a brief overview of the challenge, in line with what is included in the Short Course student books.
- **What you'll do** – a bullet point list of the steps that learners will take to complete the challenge, providing scaffolding and clarity.
- **Skills** – each challenge has been mapped to the six ASDAN skills, with clear examples of how these skills can be demonstrated through the challenge.

Challenges on Equitas can be downloaded as a PDF, which can be shared with learners and used to build a personalised book of challenges (see example on page 4).

Skills development

In the Short Course student books, skills tick boxes are included alongside each challenge for learners to record the skills they have used: Ability to learn (or Learning); Teamwork; Problem solving (or Coping with problems); IT skills (or Use of IT); Literacy (or Use of English); and Numeracy (or Use of maths).

ASDAN's revised skills framework is at the heart of Equitas, and each challenge is mapped to the six ASDAN skills: **Learning; Communicating; Decision making; Thinking; Team working; and Self-awareness**. Each challenge includes clear examples of the ways that learners may demonstrate each skill during the challenge.

✓ Skills I used:	Sign off:
☐ Ability to learn	Evidence ref
☐ Teamwork	
☐ Problem solving	Verified by
☐ IT skills	
☐ Literacy	Date
☐ Numeracy	

Learning	Identifies types of pets for sale. Records prices and responsibilities clearly. Links pet types to equipment and care needs.
Decision-making	Chooses which pets and equipment to include. Provides reasons for responsibilities and costs. Organises information logically.
Communicating	Asks clear questions about pet needs and equipment. Writes a table showing costs and responsibilities. Presents information neatly.
Team working	(Optional) Shares findings with others. Supports peers by helping with research. Combines information if working in pairs.
Thinking	Compares costs and responsibilities for different pets. Identifies key responsibilities for each pet. Explains how costs and responsibilities might affect choices.
Self-awareness	Reflects on which pet might suit them best, considering costs and responsibilities. Describes how responsibilities might affect their decision. Shows awareness of the commitment needed to care for a pet.

1A1

Visiting a pet shop or store

What pets can you buy at a pet shop, and what are the costs and responsibilities of owning them?

Visit a pet shop or store. Look at the types of pets they have for sale.

What you'll do

This challenge helps you explore the costs and responsibilities of owning a pet. You will:

- visit a pet shop or store.
- write down the types of pets for sale and their prices.
- choose three pets and ask about the equipment you need to care for each pet responsibly, and write down the costs.
- find out about the responsibilities of owning each pet (eg feeding, cleaning, exercise, training).
- make a table that shows the costs of the pets, the equipment, and the responsibilities of owning each pet.

✓ Skills I used:

- Learning ☐
- Decision-making ☐
- Communicating ☐
- Team working ☐
- Thinking ☐
- Self-awareness ☐

How I might show the skills

Skills	Examples
Learning	Identifies types of pets for sale. Records prices and responsibilities clearly. Links pet types to equipment and care needs.
Decision-making	Chooses which pets and equipment to include. Provides reasons for responsibilities and costs. Organises information logically.
Communicating	Asks clear questions about pet needs and equipment. Writes a table showing costs and responsibilities. Presents information neatly.
Team working	(Optional) Shares findings with others. Supports peers by helping with research. Combines information if working in pairs.
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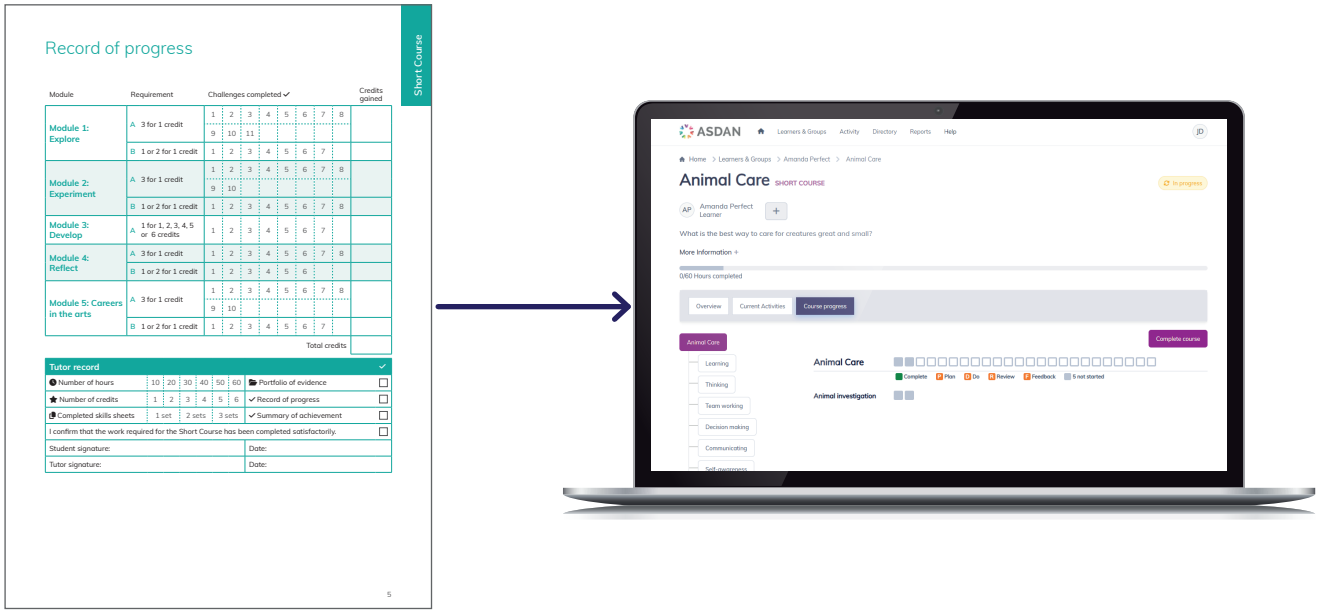
Example

Record of progress

The record of progress page in each Short Course student book acts as a record of the challenges that learners have completed and the credits they have gained. This page can be overwhelming for learners, and some may find it demotivating if they are working towards a 10- or 20-hour Short Course.

In Equitas, the record of progress is interactive and automatically updates based on the challenges that the learner has completed. It also shows the challenges that have been assigned to the learner and the status of those challenges, giving them a more meaningful view of their progress.



Challenge completion rules

In Short Course student books, each module contains specific instructions on how many challenges in each section must be completed to gain ASDAN credits. These challenge completion rules vary across modules and courses. For example:

- Animal Care: Module 1 Animal investigation – Section A: Complete at least THREE challenges over 10 hours (1 credit)
- Animal Care: Module 2 Safety around animals – Section B: Complete ONE or TWO challenges over 10 or 20 hours (1 or 2 credits)
- PSHE: Module 3 Social media – Section A: Complete FOUR challenges over 10 hours for 1 credit
- PSHE Module 4 Alcohol – Section B: Complete ONE challenge over 10 hours for 1 credit
- Expressive Arts: Module 3 Develop – Section A: Complete ONE challenge over 10–60 hours for 1–6 credits

In Equitas, each Short Course challenge has been tagged with the number of hours needed to complete the challenge (eg 2.5 hours, 5 hours, 10 hours). Challenges are grouped together in modules and sections, however tutors can assign any combination of challenges, from any combination of modules and sections, up to 60 hours.

For all Short Courses, both in student books and in Equitas, certification is available in 10-hour blocks up to a maximum of 60 hours (ie 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 hours).

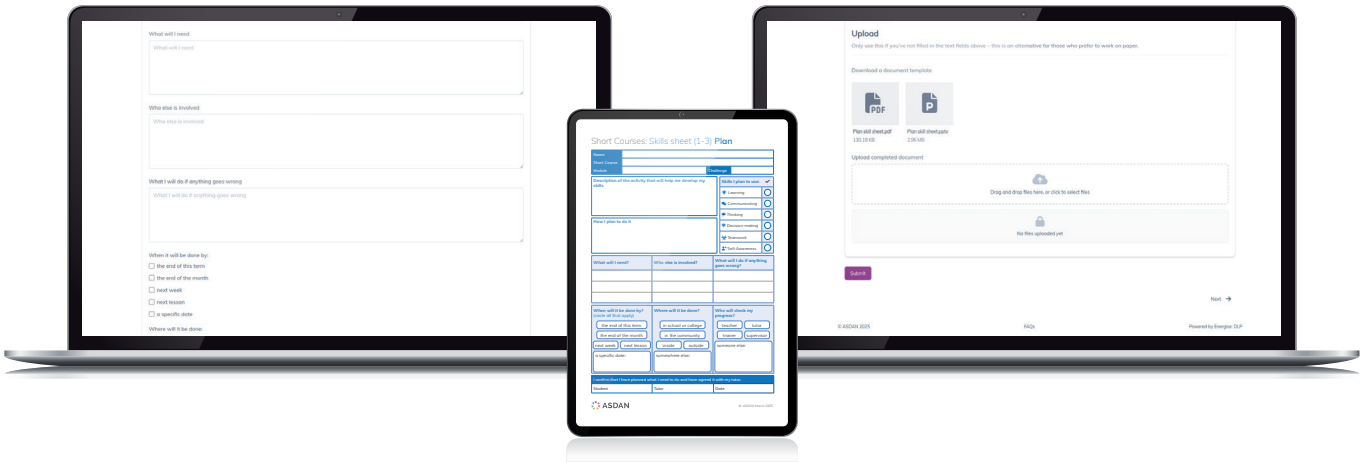
Skills sheets

For all Short Courses, learners must show evidence of planning and reviewing some of their challenges using skills sheets. Skills sheets are made up of two parts – a plan and a review.

In Short Course student books, there are three different types of skills sheets. The number and type of skills sheets required depends on the length of the Short Course that learners are working towards. For some Short Courses, skills sheets are printed in the books – for other Short Courses, they are available to download from the ASDAN website.

For Short Courses in Equitas, the different types of skills sheets have been streamlined into a single type. These skills sheets can be completed in the platform, or downloaded as PDFs to print and complete on paper, then re-uploaded. The requirement for the number of skills sheets to be completed remains the same, based on the length of the Short Course:

- for a **10- or 20-hour** Short Course, learners must complete **one** set of skills sheets
- for a **30- or 40-hour** Short Course, learners must complete **two** sets of skills sheets
- for a **50- or 60-hour** Short Course, learners must complete **three** sets of skills sheets



Portfolio of evidence

Learners are required to produce an organised portfolio of evidence that demonstrates their achievements. This evidence can be paper-based or digital.

If using Short Course student books, each learner's portfolio must include their completed student book, record of progress, skills sheets, summary of achievement and personal statement, as well as their challenge evidence. The portfolio can be a physical file or a digital file and must be organised by challenge.

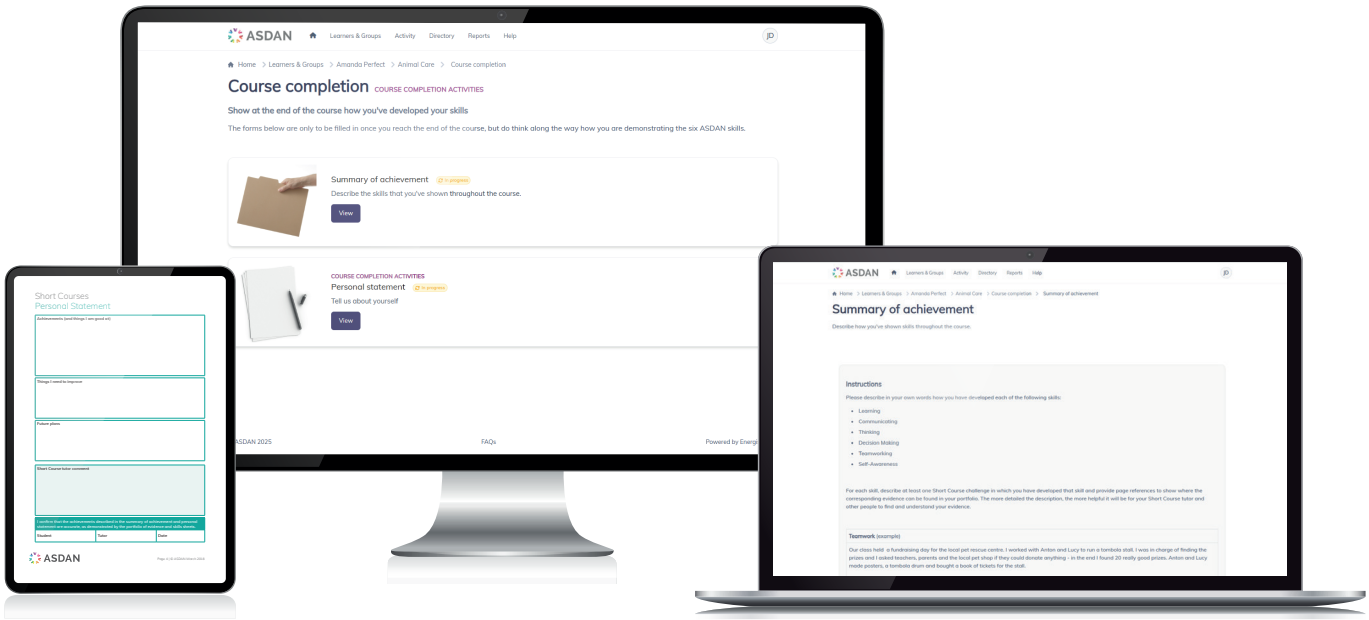
In Equitas, the administrative burden of building and organising a portfolio is removed and occurs naturally within the platform. Evidence is uploaded to each challenge and the record of progress automatically updates as challenges are completed. Evidence for each challenge can be added to the challenge as digital files, links or scanned copies of paper-based evidence – meaning that the platform organises evidence by challenge as learners work through their challenges in any order. Skills sheets, the summary of achievement and the personal statement can be completed in the platform, or downloaded as PDFs to print and complete on paper, then re-uploaded.

Summary of achievement and personal statement

The summary of achievement and personal statement are documents that learners must complete at the end of their Short Course. These documents are a way for learners to reflect on their skills development and their learning. They are also an opportunity to celebrate achievements, highlight successes and set goals for the future.

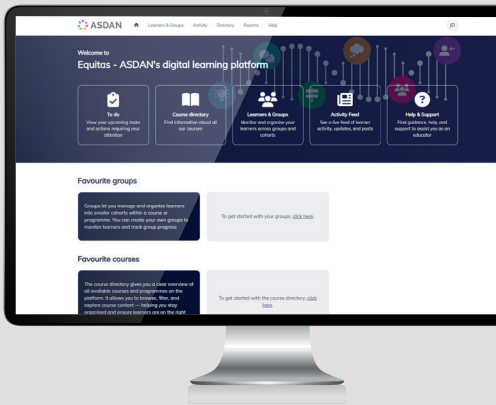
For some Short Course student books, the summary of achievement and personal statement are printed in the books – for other Short Courses, they are available to download from the ASDAN website. The skills referenced on the summary of achievement are: Ability to learn (or Learning); Teamwork; Problem solving (or Coping with problems); IT skills (or Use of IT); Literacy (or Use of English); and Numeracy (or Use of maths).

For Short Courses in Equitas, the summary of achievement and personal statement are available in the course completion section at the end of the Short Course. Both can be completed in the platform, or downloaded as PDFs to print and complete on paper, then re-uploaded. The skills referenced in the summary of achievement are the six ASDAN skills: **Learning; Communicating; Decision making; Thinking; Team working; and Self-awareness**.



Ready to start using Equitas with your learners?

Head to our digital learning page to get started today:
asdan.org.uk/digital-learning



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