

Cito Kijk- en luistertoets Engels

Transcript (vwo)

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I'm Michael Osbaldeston and I am the special advisor here at the C&G group which is a 140- year-old organization with a Royal Charter to encourage the development of skills for the benefit of individuals , organisations and national economies.

City & Guilds, first of all it was founded by the City Livery companies and those are the historic craft guilds that were responsible for centuries in terms of defining what someone had to do to be a goldsmith, or a blacksmith, or a stonemason or a carpenter. Or these days an information technologist or whatever it might be.

They came together with a corporation of the city of London 140 years ago and founded an organization that had the responsibility to encourage the development of skills. To ensure that the national workforce had the skills it needed for the nation to be economically successful

Interestingly, 150 years ago, it was recognized that apprenticeships weren't delivering what they needed to deliver. That sounds very typical of today again. And there was a real challenge that the work force in the 1850s and 1860s, and even the 1870s simply didn't have the skills it needed in an evolving global economy. Again, it sounds very typical of today; that you need a nation's workforce to have the skills needed to be competitive.

These coming together of guilds meant that organisations could define standards that was required if you were going to carry out virtually any job there was within London. London, of course was the world's major manufacturing city for centuries, so if you were working in any form, you needed to ensure that the work you did was of a standard. Today, the goldsmiths still, of course, assay gold and silver, put their mark on pieces of jewellery or whatever it might be, to show it is of a standard.

In City & Guilds we created two institutions, two physical buildings. One was in Finsbury park in North London and that became the forerunner of all the technical education colleges in the country.

The other one was our central Institute, which was in South Kensington, on the site of the Great Exhibition that had been there in 1851, And that was a more advanced institution and eventually joined with the Royal School of Mines and the Royal College of Science -to become the Imperial College which is one of the world's foremost universities. So we founded the initial college that would evolve into the model for further education. And we founded Imperial College.

So we began with a number of physical bodies. We then evolved, as those bodies were given independence and moved away, to offering qualifications, to offering examinations and then we evolved even further to create other organisations that sit within the UK skills world.

The UK is different from most European countries in that qualifications, don't sit with the government. And in fact, even GCSE's and A-levels are offered by independent organisations. There are no government examinations in England. So there is, there are.. the government doesn't control – it controls in one sense, but it doesn't deliver examinations. Either in schools or in technical colleges, or for employers. Although it's obviously deeply embedded in the policies that sit behind it.

If we go back to when we were founded in the British empire, the sun never set on it, as it said. We operated across the empire from the 2nd or 3rd year in existence and we continue to do so. We now operate in about 80 countries, many of which are former parts of the Empire which are now British Commonwealth countries, where English is the language that is used. We operate mainly in English, in one or two other language but mainly in English. The need for portability in terms of qualifications and skills is quite important and there are certain sectors where having a portable qualification provides opportunities to work worldwide. So, hospitality and catering is a great one. If you go and stay in a hotel anywhere in the world, you expect certain standards. If you're the organization that defines international standard and you're recognized as the name that defines international standards, then regardless of where you train you'll want to have a certificate from an organisation that has credibility and recognition globally. And that's one of the reasons we provide our qualifications globally. It's because the name is well-recognized in many parts of the world and because it allows people to have portability of skills, and it's a very attractive name to have on the certificate when you're looking for a job if you want to move.

And one of our things that we're looking at in terms of our policy and our bigger picture work is what the 4th Industrial Revolution will mean in the skills world. One of the things that our research is showing, that actually it's what makes people human, will make them more employable. So even with all the artificial intelligence being brought to bear in many different parts of life, the basic fundamental elements of a human person, the ability to work with others, to problem-solve, to communicate, to engage, to be empathetic. Those attributes, more than skills, will become ever more important. We see the, we call them the half-life of skills, getting shorter and shorter. So the technical skills that an individual may learn, will need to be renewed regularly throughout their working life. Very few people will have a job for life. So it's important that we underpin the technical skill with attributes and characteristics in young people, people of all ages, so they have the ability to learn new technical skills.