To ensure Technicians in the automotive industry are fully skilled and experienced it is expected that
the majority of automotive apprenticeship candidates will develop their skills and knowledge through
the completion of a VRQ (Technical Certificate) before moving on to show their competency in the
workplace and gathering evidence as part of the VCQ.

Technical Certificates support candidates’ skills and knowledge development through teaching the
content and by carrying out assessment under conditions which simulate real working practices, as
far as possible, but without having the added pressure of deadlines and real customers. This allows
candidates to develop, hone and refine their skills and knowledge before applying them in the
workplace.

VCQs are designed to take those skills and knowledge and allow candidates to apply them in the
workplace, confirming their competence.

The content of the VCQ and Technical Certificate units are similar, but the assessment requirements
are different. For example it may be necessary to complete three observations as part of the
Technical Certificate (these will generally be simulated) but only one for the VCQ (in the real work
environment). It is important that the minimum requirements for both the Technical Certificates and
the VCQ are met in full, though observations from the VCQ may be used as part of the evidence for
the Technical Certificate (though not vice versa). This should only be done in exceptional
circumstances, as it does not support the aim of the Technical Certificate.

What to do:
- look at where evidence could be used across the Technical Certificate and VCQ to minimize the
assessment burden ensuring it meets the assessment requirements of both qualifications at all
times
- use the City & Guilds documentation (or approved centre devised alternative) which identifies
where evidence may be used from the VCQ and Technical Certificate
- contact your allocated Qualification Consultant (formally known as External Verifier) if you have
any queries.

What not to do:
- assume that if a VCQ unit has been achieved that the equivalent VRQ unit can automatically be
achieved
- allow candidates to complete the VCQ before achieving the Technical Certificate.