

MILA EXAM

OFQUAL

REGULATED
QUALIFICATION

ACCREDITED BY

ABBE
Quality Accredited



Level 4

Certificate

in General

Locksmithing

Skills.

**Information and
Booking pack**



ABOUT THE MLA EXAM

Demonstrate your skills and knowledge by passing our Ofqual recognised level 4 MLA exam certified by ABBE (the awarding body for building regulation).

Why take the MLA exam?

Upon passing the exam you will gain a Level 4 certificate in General Locksmithing Skills, which is the highest locksmithing qualification you can achieve in the UK.

MLA personal members will be awarded QML status once they pass. As MLA Approved Companies must have a QML as a member of staff QML status can really set you apart.

Who should take the exam?

We recommend at least 2 years experience as a locksmith before attempting to take the MLA exam.

The exam is ideal for anyone who is a working locksmith and an MLA registered member. All MLA registered members are required to pass the MLA exam within 4 years of membership.

How can I prepare for the exam?

Our exam preparation day is a great way to learn more about the exam and to practice the skills you'll need to pass. More details can be found on page 6.

What is involved in does the MLA exam?

The exam consists of four timed modules covering fitting, opening, cutting and a written paper; and can be taken with or without coaching.

You can sit one module at a time to make completing a qualification manageable and affordable.

More details can be found on Page 5



WAYS TO TAKE THE EXAM

1 Day Exam (no coaching)

Designed for those who feel confident they can take the exam WITHOUT any coaching beforehand.



1 Day Price (4 modules)

Member Price: £460

Non-Member Price: £640



Exam Dates

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)



Module Price

Member Price: £115

Non-Member Price: £160

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2 Day Exam (with coaching)

The 2 day exam with coaching is designed to help approach the MLA exam fully prepared and with added confidence.

This exam includes coaching before each subject helping you understand what is expected from you in order to pass. The modules are split over 2 days, with two modules on each day.

Time permitting, should you fail a module of the exam, you may be able to re-sit that module on the day. This is not possible in the 1 day Exam.

- Day 1 – Coaching + 2 Module tests
- Day 2 – Coaching + 2 Module tests



2 Day Price (4 modules)

Member Price: £600

Non-Member Price: £920



Exam Dates

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)



Module Price

Member Price: £150

Non-Member Price: £230

BOOK TODAY

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4 MODULES OF THE EXAM

1. WRITTEN PAPER

Time allowed 1 hour

50 short questions of which some may require a sketch.

- The questions will be a broad spectrum of locksmithing, including safes, access control and lever & pin tumbler mechanisms
- The written paper may be undertaken at a regional meeting, at the discretion of the examination board and by prior arrangement with HQ.

2. PRACTICAL - OPEN A BS 5 LEVER MORTICE LOCK

Time allowed $\frac{3}{4}$ hour

- The lock will be one in common use and can be opened by drilling or manipulation.
- If opened by drilling, then a maximum 7-8mm single hole is allowed and you'll need to identify the lock in order to pass.
- If a 6mm hole is drilled then you can pass without having to identify the lock.
- Marks will be awarded for correct identification together with the level of skill demonstrated.

3. PRACTICAL - FIT A EURO MORTICE DEADLOCK TO A DOOR

Time allowed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

You'll be required to fit a euro cylinder operated deadlock with security escutcheons and box striker to a door.

- This is a test of your carpentry skills and lock-fitting jigs will not be allowed.
- Please be aware striker plate must be fully fitted in order to pass. Marks will be awarded according to the level of skill demonstrated.

4. CUT A STEPPED (LEVER) KEY

Time allowed 1 hour

You (the candidate) will be given a customers Union/Chubb detainer range 3G110 and asked to cut a key by hand using your chosen method. The combination of levers must cannot be modified. You'll be given a genuine blank and you may have a second blank issued if required (but no more)

This is a test of bench skills using hand tools only. Not key machines.

- Basic facilities are available, such as vices and blanks but you are to provide the hand tools required to complete the task.
- Key and lever reading type gauges (e.g. depth keys or step gauges) are not allowed although Vernier callipers can be used.
- Your key must be of sufficient standard to operate the lock using your usual method of finishing.
- The lock must work with the original key on completion.
- Your step cuts and spacing must be a faithful reproduction of the manufacturers' original with particular regard to stepped heights, spacing, finish and radius.



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I came away having learned a lot and gained some confidence for my exam.

Thank you to Peter and Gary, they were both really helpful with their tips and advice, then also really clear and transparent when showing us how exactly how each module is marked which was really helpful.

Adam Cowell

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MLA Exam Preparation Day

The course at a glance

In this hands on practical course you'll learn all the necessary skills required for the MLA exam. Learn from experienced instructors and MLA exam invigilators in a friendly and relaxed environment, helping to take away any mystery or anxiety you may have.



Course Price

Member Price: £245

Non-Member Price: £305



Course Dates

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)

BOOK TODAY

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Learning Outcomes

You'll be given an explanation of what is required to pass each element of the exam, including the written paper, you'll then have the opportunity to practice your skills.

Our tutors will give you pointers on any areas you may need some extra practice and guidance on how to improve.

Cut a MLA Exam standard key to a Union 3G110 mortice lock

- The different methods of cutting a key
- How to mark up and start the key cutting process
- Become familiar with the operation of a lock

Fit a euro mortice deadlock to a door

- Understand the differences between a well fitted lock and badly fitted lock
- Identify which tools to select for a quality fitting

Open a BS 5 lever mortice lock

- Understand the different opening methods
- Learn the theory of drilling a BS lock

Brief Overview of Exam Paper

- Explain the pass mark + percentage needed
- What research needs to be done
- Common mistakes made from previous students giving examples

Who should attend?

This course is designed for anyone who would like guidance on what and how to prepare ahead of the MLA exam.

Requirements

A minimum of a Basic Disclosure (DBS) Apply via gov.uk

Must have either:

- attended the Level 1 training or;
- have at least 3 years locksmith experience or;
- have 2 referees (who are MLA members)

5% exam discount

Those who attend the MLA Exam Preparation Day will be eligible for a 5% discount on the MLA exam.

You must take the exam within 12 months of the preparation day in order to qualify.



Course Price

Member Price: £245

Non-Member Price: £305



Course Dates

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)

At the end of the course

You should be confident to take either the 1 day or the 2 day MLA exam.

Please note. The exam must be booked separately and is not part of this course.

BOOK TODAY

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