



# Get Qualified.

## MLA Qualification

## ABBE Level 4 Certificate in General Locksmithing Skills



ACCREDITED BY



OFQUAL  
REGULATED  
QUALIFICATION

# Hello.



**I'm Natalie, the Training Administrator here at the MLA and your main point of contact throughout your Qualification.**

The MLA is proud to offer a Level 4 Qualification in General Locksmithing Skills which is regulated by OFQUAL and ABBE approved.

To gain such high credentials, you have to pass our examinations. Once passed, MLA registered members will have the accreditation of being a QML (Qualified Master Locksmith) opening up extra membership benefits and putting you one step ahead of your competitors. These Exams are not for those who are just starting out. We suggest taking your exams once you are confidently locksmithing and have finished a number of our training courses, giving you the best shot of passing first time.

If you believe you have what it takes to become qualified, then don't hesitate to get in contact!

“

In my later years, I undertook the MLA Exam and passed the QML exam, which turbocharged our business to a whole new level...

The MLA has helped boost my own confidence. To be tested and excepted by your peers based on your knowledge and skill is an amazing feeling.

The feeling of accomplishment to pass the QML is second to none. The next logical step after your QML is to become an approved company. Which comes with its own added benefits.

**LLOYD MORGAN, LONDON LOCKS**

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[Read more about Lloyd here](#)



# About the MLA Qualification

**Demonstrate your skills and knowledge by passing our Ofqual recognised level 4 MLA exam certified by ABBE (the Awarding Body of the Built Environment).**

## Why take the MLA Qualification?

- ✓ 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 become Qualified Master Locksmiths (QML) upon attaining the Qualification, making them one step closer to becoming MLA Approved Companies.

## What is involved in the MLA Qualification?

- ✓ The qualification is exam based consisting of four timed modules covering fitting, opening, key cutting by hand 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 info Page 4](#)

## Who should take the MLA Qualification?

- ✓ The Qualification is ideal for anyone who is a working locksmith.
- ✓ We recommend at least 2 years experience as a locksmith before attempting to take the MLA Qualification.
- ✓ You don't need to have completed any MLA training courses to take the exam, but our courses can help you develop the skills necessary to pass.
- ✓ All MLA registered members are required to pass the MLA exam within 4 years of membership.

## How can I prepare for the exam?

- ✓ Our **Qualification Preparation Day** is a great way to learn more about the exam and to practice the skills you'll need to pass.   
➤ [More info Page 7](#)
- ✓ Our **Level 2 Opening** course will help you Master British Standard 5 Lever mortice locks ahead of the opening module of the MLA qualification   
➤ [More info Page 9](#)
- ✓ Our **Locksmith Qualification Programme** is ideal for complete beginners, giving you the training and resources needed to become a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML)   
➤ [More info Page 10](#)

# The four modules of the MLA Qualification

## 1. WRITTEN PAPER

50 short questions of which some may require a sketch.

Time allowed  
1 hour

- ✓ 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 - 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.

## 3. 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 not 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.

## 4. PRACTICAL - OPEN A BS 5 LEVER MORTICE LOCK

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

- ✓ The lock will be one in current 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.

# Ways to take the MLA Qualification

## **MLA Qualification | 4 Modules**

Our tutors will provide guidance before each subject to help you understand what's required to pass. The modules are spread over two days, with two modules scheduled on each day.

If you fail a module, you may have the opportunity to re-sit it on the same day, depending on time and at the tutors discretion. This option is not available with the FAST TRACK Qualification.

Day 1 = 2 Modules

Day 2 = 2 Modules

### **£ FULL Qualification Price (All 4 modules)**

Member Price: £618 | Non-Member Price: £947.60

### **£ Price Per Module**

Member Price: £154.50 | Non-Member Price: £236.90



### **Exam Dates**

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)

## **BOOK TODAY!**

[Click to book today!](#)

## **MLA Qualification FAST TRACK | 4 Modules**

Complete the full qualification in just one day with our FAST TRACK Qualification option. This is perfect for individuals confident in their ability to take the qualification without prior support, as well as those requiring to re-take modules they have not passed.

### **£ FAST TRACK Price (All 4 modules)**

Member Price: £473.80 | Non-Member Price: £659.20

### **£ FAST TRACK Price Per Module**

Member Price: £118.45 | Non-Member Price: £164.80



### **Exam Dates**

[Click here for latest exam dates](#)

## **BOOK TODAY!**

[Click to book today!](#)

# Preparing for the exam

## **MLA Qualification Preparation Day**

On this practical course, you'll explore the MLA qualification and practise the core skills you need, guided by experienced instructors in a friendly, relaxed setting.

[More info](#)

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## **Level 2 Opening**

Provides a comprehensive understanding of how to open British Standard 5 Lever mortice locks using methods similar to those in the MLA Qualification.

[More info](#)

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## **MLA Qualification Programme**

If you're new to locksmithing, our MLA Qualification Programme offers a route through to the MLA Qualification.

[More info](#)

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## **Need to refresh some skills?**

The 5-Day Beginners Course provides a strong foundation to help you prepare for the MLA Qualification. It consists of four modules: a 2-day foundation, a 1-day fitting, a 1-day uPVC, and a 1-day basic opening. If you need additional training in a specific area, such as fitting, you can take individual modules.

## **Qualification notes**

MLA Members have the unique opportunity to purchase extra resources to help study towards the written examination.

Please contact [training@locksmiths.co.uk](mailto:training@locksmiths.co.uk) for more information

# MLA Qualification Preparation Day



This hands-on practical course is designed for experienced locksmiths preparing for the MLA qualification. You'll focus on refining the key skills you need to practise ahead of the qualification, guided by experienced instructors and MLA invigilators in a friendly, relaxed environment that helps build confidence and remove any anxiety.

## Learning Outcomes

You'll get a clear overview of what's required to pass each element of the MLA qualification, including the written paper, then practise and refine your existing skills with expert guidance. This course is for experienced locksmiths, focusing on pointers, feedback, and confidence-building rather than basic training.

## Tasks and areas for guidance

- ✓ Cutting an MLA Qualification standard key to a Union 3G110 mortice lock
  - Reviewing different key-cutting methods
  - Marking up and starting the key-cutting process
  - Refreshing familiarity with lock operation
- ✓ Fit a euro mortice deadlock to a door
  - Identifying the differences between a well-fitted and poorly fitted lock
  - Selecting the correct tools for a quality installation
- ✓ Opening a BS 5-lever mortice lock
  - Understanding different opening methods
  - Understanding the theory of drilling a BS lock

You'll also get a brief overview of the written paper, including the pass mark, areas for research, and common mistakes from previous candidates—helping you approach the exam with confidence.

## Course Dates & Prices

### Course Price (incl. VAT)

Member Price: £252.35

Non-Member Price: £314.15

### Course Dates

[Click here for our latest course dates.](#)

**BOOK TODAY!**  
[Click to book today!](#)

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

## Who should attend the Qualification Preparation Day?

The Qualification Preparation Day is designed for anyone who would like guidance on what and how to prepare ahead of the MLA Qualification.

### Requirements

- ✓ A minimum of a Basic Disclosure (DBS) Apply via gov.uk
- ✓ Must have either:
  - attended the Level 1 training or;
  - have 2 referees (who are MLA members)

### 5% discount

- ✓ Those who attend the Qualification Preparation Day will be eligible for a 5% discount off the 4 modules of the MLA Qualification.
- ✓ You must take the exam within 12 months of the Qualification Preparation Day in order to qualify.



### At the end of the course

You should be confident to take all 4 modules of the MLA Qualification.

“

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

Thank you to Peter and Gary [course tutors], 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, INSTALOCK**

”

**BOOK TODAY!**  
**Click to book today!**

Adam gained his qualification and became a QML in May 2023. His company, Instalock is now an approved company.

# Level 2 Opening



This course is perfect for Locksmiths wanting to take the next step in their career by taking on insurance approved locks. An absolute must for any working locksmith.

## What you'll learn

- ✓ Understand the basic methods of entry Opening authority procedure
- ✓ Various methods of entry explained Detailed lock identification through the keyhole
- ✓ How to successfully drill BS curtained mortice locks
- ✓ Including hints Tips and how to avoid the dangers of failure
- ✓ Hands-on drilling of BS mortice locks Instruction and hands-on NDE of Securefast, Eurospec and Chubb/Union 114

## Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Once this course has been completed you'll have a full understanding on opening British Standard 5 Lever mortice locks, via various means just like the ones in the MLA Qualification.

## Who should attend?

- ✓ Open to members and non-members.
- ✓ We recommend that this course is taken after some experience following any level 1 training.
- ✓ Attendees should have a good understanding of lever lock terminology, how locks work and understanding of basic opening techniques.

## Requirements to attend

- ✓ Minimum of a Basic Disclosure (DBS)
- ✓ Either have been a member for 6 months + or taken level 1 opening module
- ✓ Non Members must have taken level 1 opening module

**BOOK TODAY!**  
[Click to book today!](#)



## Level 2 Opening Course Price (incl. VAT)

Member Price: £307.97 | Non-Member Price: £410.97



## Course Dates

[Click here for our latest course dates.](#)

# Locksmith Qualification Programme

**This programme will provide you with the essential skills and support to develop a successful career as a locksmith.**

## Included in the programme:

### **5 Day Beginners Course**

Consists of four modules which can be taken separately.

### **Level 2 Opening**

Master British Standard 5 Lever mortice locks ahead of the opening module of the MLA qualification. [Click for more info](#)

### **Qualification Preparation Day**

This is a practical, hands-on learning experience that will equip you with all the essential skills needed to undertake the practical modules of the MLA qualification. [Click for more info](#)

### **MLA Qualification**

Level 4 Certificate in General Locksmithing

### **2 Years MLA Personal Membership\***

Giving you access to a wide range of help and resources

Plus  
**FREE**  
exam notes

## Programme Price



£2,870.68 incl. VAT  
(normally £4,016.60)<sup>^</sup>

You save  
**£1,145.92<sup>^</sup>**

[Click here for more information.](#)

\*After the initial 2 years, there will be an annual subscription fee of £126.54. Once, you pass the exam and become a QML, this fee will reduce to £109.02 annually.

<sup>^</sup> Based on individual booking at non-member price

Prices correct as of November 2025, and may be subject to change.

# Become an MLA Approved Company.

After passing the MLA Qualification and becoming a Qualified Master Locksmith (QML), if you run your own business, you may want to apply for MLA Approved Company membership to take advantage of additional benefits.

- **Listed on find a locksmith.** Get noticed by over 500,000 consumers annually searching for local MLA Approved Locksmiths on [locksmiths.co.uk](https://locksmiths.co.uk).
- **Have your own company page on locksmiths.co.uk** to showcase your skills and services. You'll benefit from our 70+ domain authority, boosting your visibility on Google and enhancing your advertising efforts.
- **A FREE listing in our Approved Company directory**, used by insurers, police, Neighbourhood Watch, and crime officers to recommend locksmith companies.
- **Benefit from our recognition and promotion.** MLA Approved Companies are recognised and used by police and insurers as well as local and central government. The MLA are regularly featured on local and national radio and TV programs.

[\*\*Click here for our Approved Company Application Pack\*\*](#)

## Get in touch.

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