UKCTAG LEVEL 3 IN FRONTLINE COUNTER TERRORISM AWARENESS & RESPONSE

Qualification Type: Vocational Qualification
Level: 3
Credit Value: 6–8
Total Qualification Time (TQT): 60 hours
Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 24–30 hours
Duration: 3 Days (Structured Programme)
Delivery: Classroom-based, scenario-driven, practical exercises & simulations
Target Learners: Frontline security operatives: guards, stewards, retail, licensed premises, transport, corporate and event security staff

Purpose:

- Develop a broad and current understanding of terrorism across ideological spectrums
- Enable learners to identify pre-attack indicators and hostile reconnaissance
- Equip frontline staff to respond safely, lawfully, and effectively to incidents
- Provide life-saving principles and immediate emergency response capability
- Support progression into supervisory and specialist counter-terrorism roles

DELIVERY STRUCTURE (3-DAY MODEL)

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DAY 1: CORE COUNTER TERRORISM KNOWLEDGE

Focus: Awareness, threat understanding, and prevention

Unit 1: Understanding Modern Terrorism and Extremism

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-01

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Describe the different types of terrorism and extremism.
2. Explain the motivations and tactics used by various terrorist groups.
3. Identify trends and emerging threats in the global and UK context.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC1.1: Learner can explain the differences between Islamist, far-right, left-wing, single-issue, and hybrid terrorism.
- AC1.2: Learner can describe typical attack methods and tactics.
- AC1.3: Learner can provide examples of current UK and international terrorism trends.

Assessment Methods:

- Short written knowledge test (multiple choice or short answer).
- Professional discussion to confirm understanding.

Unit 2: Recognising Suspicious Behaviour and Hostile Reconnaissance

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-02

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Identify behaviours that may indicate pre-attack planning.
2. Understand hostile reconnaissance and surveillance indicators.
3. Apply situational awareness in operational environments.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC2.1: Learner can identify suspicious behaviours and activities.
- AC2.2: Learner can recognise signs of hostile reconnaissance in different environments.
- AC2.3: Learner can demonstrate practical application of situational awareness in scenarios.

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Assessment Methods:

- Scenario-based exercises (observation of the learner identifying and responding to suspicious activity).
- Written assessment of key indicators and behaviours.

Unit 4: Protect Duty Responsibilities and Communication with Authorities

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-04

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Understand the legal framework of Protect Duty in the UK.
2. Demonstrate correct communication protocols with authorities.
3. Recognise the scope and limits of a frontline operative's responsibilities.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC4.1: Learner can describe the obligations of the Protect Duty.
- AC4.2: Learner can demonstrate correct reporting procedures to internal and external authorities.
- AC4.3: Learner can explain their operational role and limits during an incident.

Assessment Methods:

- Written knowledge test on legal obligations and reporting requirements.
- Professional discussion or reflective scenario exercise.

Day 1 Outcomes

By the end of Day 1, learners will be able to:

- Understand current terrorism threats (UK & global)
- Identify suspicious behaviour and hostile reconnaissance
- Apply situational awareness in real-world environments
- Understand Protect Duty responsibilities and reporting protocols

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Day 1 Assessment

- Knowledge-based written test
- Scenario-based observation exercises
- Professional discussion

DAY 2: SPECIALIST OPERATIONAL PATHWAY LEARNERS

Focus: Applying CT principles in real operational environments.

Learners select ONE pathway relevant to their role:

- Stadium & Arena Security
- Licensed Premises Security
- Festival & Event Security
- Retail Security
- Corporate & Office Security
- Transport & Airport Security
- Faith & Community Venues

Unit 6: Stadium & Arena Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-06

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT awareness principles to large-scale venues.
2. Identify venue-specific risks, including crowd management and event-specific threats.
3. Demonstrate effective communication and coordination with stadium teams.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC6.1: Recognise threats in stadium environments
- AC6.2: Apply risk mitigation strategies
- AC6.3: Participate in team briefings

Assessment Methods:

- Practical scenario exercise simulating stadium incidents.
- Portfolio evidence of operational planning or briefing notes.

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Unit 7: Licensed Premises Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-07

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT principles in bars, pubs, clubs, and other licensed venues.
2. Identify potential threats, including lone attackers, hostile groups, or disguised reconnaissance.
3. Demonstrate operational controls suitable for licensed premises.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC7.1: Conduct checks for hostile activity or suspicious individuals.
- AC7.2: Implement crowd management and access control procedures.
- AC7.3: Communicate appropriately with colleagues, management, and emergency services.

Assessment Methods:

- Roleplay or simulated incident in a licensed venue context.
- Knowledge-based questions on venue risks and Protect Duty responsibilities.

Unit 8: Festival & Event Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-08

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT awareness to open-air festivals, concerts, and temporary events.
2. Recognise risks specific to large, transient crowds.
3. Support incident management and crowd control under high-stress conditions.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC8.1: Identify key threat areas in festival/event settings.
- AC8.2: Implement operational and crowd control measures.
- AC8.3: Record and communicate incidents effectively.

Assessment Methods:

- Scenario exercises simulating threats to festivals or events.
- Portfolio evidence: risk assessment for an event setup.

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Unit 9: Retail Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-09

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT principles in retail environments.
2. Recognise suspicious behaviour within customer and staff interactions.
3. Implement access control, surveillance, and incident response measures.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC9.1: Detect signs of hostile intent in retail settings.
- AC9.2: Apply response procedures in accordance with Protect Duty.
- AC9.3: Liaise with colleagues and emergency services when incidents occur.

Assessment Methods:

- Practical scenario simulating a threat in a retail environment.
- Written questions on procedures and threat recognition.

Unit 10: Corporate & Office Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-10

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT awareness in office, corporate, and business park environments.
2. Identify risks from visitors, contractors, and internal personnel.
3. Implement access control and incident escalation procedures.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC10.1: Recognise suspicious behaviour or potential insider threats.
- AC10.2: Follow reporting protocols for corporate security incidents.
- AC10.3: Contribute to team briefings and response planning.

Assessment Methods:

- Scenario-based exercises simulating threats in office environments.
- Portfolio evidence: visitor logs, operational plans.

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Unit 11: Transport & Airport Security

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-11

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT principles in airports, train stations, and transport hubs.
2. Recognise risks including unattended luggage, suspicious passengers, and insider threats.
3. Support security screening and incident response procedures.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC11.1: Identify and assess potential threats in transport hubs.
- AC11.2: Apply security protocols for passengers, baggage, and staff.
- AC11.3: Communicate effectively with colleagues and authorities.

Assessment Methods:

- Practical scenario at transport hub simulation.
- Knowledge-based test on operational procedures and Protect Duty.

Unit 12: Faith & Community Venues

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-12

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply CT awareness principles in religious and community spaces.
2. Identify risks to congregations and community events.
3. Implement protective measures and emergency response procedures.

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC12.1: Recognise threats specific to faith or community venues.
- AC12.2: Demonstrate operational controls and risk mitigation.
- AC12.3: Communicate and coordinate with internal teams and external authorities.

Assessment Methods:

- Practical scenario simulating incidents in a community venue.
- Portfolio evidence: venue risk assessment or operational planning document.

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Day 2 Outcomes

By the end of Day 2, learners will be able to:

- Apply CT principles within their specific operational environment
- Identify environment-specific threats and vulnerabilities
- Implement practical mitigation and reporting measures
- Operate effectively as part of a security team during heightened risk

Day 2 Assessment

- Practical scenario exercises (environment-specific)
- Portfolio evidence (risk assessments/briefings)
- Knowledge questions

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DAY 3 — INCIDENT RESPONSE & LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTION

Focus: What to do when an attack happens — saving lives and managing chaos

Unit 3: Incident Response and Scene Management

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-03

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Apply dynamic risk assessment during a live incident
2. Prioritise life safety using recognised emergency principles
3. Support casualty management until emergency services arrive

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC3.1: Demonstrate the ability to apply dynamic risk assessment
- AC3.2: Demonstrate immediate response actions to an Incident that is safe.
- AC3.3: To be able to establish scene control and the ability to keep it controlled.
- AC3.4: To be able to demonstrate effective communication during an incident.

Assessment Methods

- **Practical Scenario-Based Assessment:** Learners participate in simulated incident scenarios (e.g., marauding attack, suspicious package, evacuation) in which they demonstrate dynamic risk assessment, decision-making, and scene management.
- **Assessor Observation:** Direct observation of learner performance during practical exercises, focusing on response actions, communication, and safety.
- **Professional Discussion:** Structured questioning to confirm understanding of incident response principles, decision-making rationale, and legal considerations.
- **Knowledge Check (Written or Verbal):** Short assessment covering key principles such as response priorities, scene control, and communication protocols.

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Unit 5: Emergency First Aid Principles in a CT Context

Unit Code: UKCTAG-CT3-05

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

1. Understand the principles of "Run, Hide, Tell" and "Stay Safe" guidance
2. Apply life-saving interventions in a hostile environment
3. Recognise and respond to catastrophic bleeding and trauma injuries
4. Prioritise actions under pressure to protect life over property

Assessment Criteria (ACs):

- AC5.1: Demonstrate safe decision-making during a live incident scenario
- AC5.2: Apply basic trauma response principles (e.g. bleeding control, casualty positioning)
- AC5.3: Prioritise actions based on threat, safety, and survivability

Assessment Methods

- **Practical Demonstration:**
  Learners demonstrate life-saving interventions, including control of catastrophic bleeding, casualty positioning, and prioritisation of care.
- **Scenario-Based Assessment:**
  Integrated within realistic incident scenarios to assess the learner's ability to apply first aid under pressure in a hostile environment.
- **Assessor Observation:**
  Evaluation of practical competence, focusing on safe technique, prioritisation, and situational awareness.
- **Oral Questioning / Professional Discussion:**
  To confirm understanding of principles such as "Run, Hide, Tell", "Stay Safe", and life-saving priorities.

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Practical Delivery (Day 3)

- High-pressure multi-scenario simulations (e.g. marauding attack, suspicious package, evacuation)
- Casualty management exercises
- Team-based response drills
- Communication under stress exercises

Day 3 Outcomes

By the end of Day 3, learners will be able to:

- Respond effectively to a terrorist incident in real time
- Protect themselves and others using safe response principles
- Deliver immediate life-saving actions prior to emergency services' arrival
- Manage scenes, communicate clearly, and support emergency responders

Day 3 Assessment

- Assessed practical scenario (major incident simulation)
- Observation of decision-making and actions
- Short written or verbal confirmation of principles

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ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

- **Practical Scenarios:** Learners demonstrate response to realistic CT situations.
- **Knowledge-Based Test:** Short written assessment covering terrorism types, hostile reconnaissance, incident response, and Protect Duty.
- **Professional Discussion/Reflective Exercise:** Confirms understanding of responsibilities and decision-making.
- **Portfolio Evidence (for pathway units):** Risk assessments, operational briefings, scenario notes.
- **Final Practical Assessment (Day 3):** Integrated Incident Response Exercise

Delivery Model

- 3-day structured programme (recommended standard delivery)
- Highly practical and scenario-led
- Blended learning optional (pre-course theory)
- Emphasis on real-world application and survivability

Entry Requirements

- No prior CT qualification required.
- Recommended for frontline security operatives, including SIA-licensed staff.

Progression Pathway

- **Entry:** Suitable for new or experienced frontline security operatives.
- **Exit:** Learners demonstrate foundational competence in CT awareness and response.
- **Next Step:**
  - Level 4 NVQ in Counter Terrorism Supervision & Operational Leadership (practical supervisory route).
  - Level 4 Diploma in CT Supervision & Leadership (academic route).
  - Optional CPD modules for specialised environments.

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