

Comparing the CertTESOL (2016) and CELTA (2018) syllabi (summary only!)

What's broadly the same?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both include min. 6 hrs of assessed TP, followed by feedback, in cyclical, cumulative process. Length & level: 130 (CertTESOL) or 120 (CELTA) hours, over min. 1 month. Level 5 on RQF. Prerequisites of candidates: 18+, degree level or similar, C1 English. Both include mandatory observation of experienced teachers integrated throughout course. Both include inputs and TP distributed throughout the course (compare with many MA TESOLs) allowing for greater link-up. Assessed on both TP (continuous) and assignments. Candidates need to pass in both areas.* 	
What's somewhat different?	
Both courses have an assignment that assesses explicit content knowledge, but...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CertTESOL Unit 2 assignment: Language awareness. Assessed through assignment or exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CELTA assignment 2: Language related tasks. Assessed through assignment only.
Both courses have an assignment that requires candidates to investigate the characteristics, needs and challenges of their learners, but...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CertTESOL Unit 3 assignment: Learner profile. Interview, teach a lesson to, and write about 1 learner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CELTA assignment 1: Focus on the learner. Interview and write assignment about either one or a group of learners.
What's completely different?	
What CertTESOL has...	but CELTA hasn't...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CertTESOL: Guided observation journal – assessed as part of Unit 1 (Teaching skills). CertTESOL Unit 5: Unknown language involves 4 hrs of mandatory instruction, journal and assignment completion. CertTESOL Unit 4: Materials assignment: create, use and reflect on a set of materials. Externally assessed by moderator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CELTA: No journal required, only observation. CELTA: Optional Unknown foreign language lesson (usually just 1). No assessment. CELTA: On most courses assignment 3 requires (or expects) materials for language skills related tasks to be created.
What CELTA has...	but CertTESOL hasn't...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CELTA: Assignment 3: Language skills related tasks: An assignment requiring them to create reading or listening tasks around a text and justify their choices. Cannot be used in class! CELTA: Assignment 4: Lessons from the classroom: Candidates reflect on own development through course including strengths and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CertTESOL Unit 4: See above; could potentially be quite similar. But must be used in class and evaluated. CertTESOL 'Final summary': Shorter assignment submitted as part of the teaching practice portfolio.

*Important differences in role of moderator (CertTESOL) and assessor (CELTA) are not the key focus of this workshop, but should be noted:

- CertTESOL:** Moderator looks at portfolios for evidence of trainees meeting criteria and assesses all Unit 4 assignments through interview.
- CELTA:** Assessor observes 1 or 2 lessons for evidence of trainees meeting criteria, and to assess trainers' evaluations, but doesn't directly assess candidates, only moderates trainers' assessments.



The Basic Idea

Let's get into mixed groups: At least 1 CELTA trainer in each group, and CertTESOL trainers from different courses in each group.

Take time to look at the handout. Ask each other questions about bits of the other syllabus that you're maybe curious about.

Then select from the following:

- Which areas of difference interest you most? Why?
- Which bits from the other syllabus would you like in yours? Which bits wouldn't you like? Why?

And then...



imagine

What would a course for the future look like? Forget all the constraints of the syllabi. Assume that future courses will average 50% experienced (mainly NNS) and 50% inexperienced teachers (mainly NS).

Write down some ideas on a sheet of flipchart paper.

Designate 1 group member as timekeeper – 30 minutes total.

