An Introduction to Plug-In Solar *Autumn 2026*

This answer book will only be marked and certificated if this is completed by the learner AND prison staff

Learner Statement of Authenticity

By returning this answer book you are confirming that the work contained is entirely your work and does not include any work completed by anyone other than yourself. You also confirm that you have completed the assignment/portfolio in accordance with the instructions given by your establishment.

Learner Prison No. in CAPITAL LETTERS

Prison:

Learner's Initials:

Date:

Establishment Confirmation of Authenticity

I confirm that the above-mentioned learner, to the best of my knowledge, is the sole author of this completed answer book.

Staff Name:

Signed:

Date:

STAFF USE ONLY			
Date Issued	Date Marked	Assessor Initials	Result
			☐ PASS ☐ REFER

Way2Learn

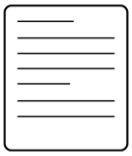
Contents

How it works

Welcome to your Way2Learn course.

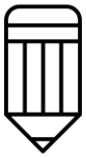
This course is designed to enable access to education for all – whether in-cell or in your establishment's education facility.

To complete this course, you will need to watch all of the episodes. Times for each episode are provided on the next page.



You can request a copy of the episode transcript from your Distance Learning Coordinator or Learning and Skills Manager if you need to revisit any of the information.

If you have any difficulties in completing this course, please speak to a suitable peer mentor or member of staff for some help.



Once completed, return your answer book to the appropriate member of staff. After it has been received, it can take up to 3 weeks to be assessed and issued a certificate.

You can ask a member of staff for a copy of our policies and practices for further details.

Episode Guide

Content Guide	Day	Times
Ep 1: The Law Changed What plug-in solar is, why it was against the rules in the UK, and exactly what changed on 27 August 2026.	**Monday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**
Ep 2: How a Kit Works What is inside a certified kit, how the power flows into your sockets, the safety features, and the rules you must follow.	**Tuesday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**
Ep 3: What It Costs, What It Saves What a kit costs, how much it can save in a year, why two identical kits give different results, and how to work out payback.	**Wednesday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**
Ep 4: A New Industry How fast this market has grown in Germany, who plug-in solar is for in Britain, and the jobs a brand-new industry creates.	**Thursday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**
Ep 5: Solar and the Green Economy How clean energy has changed in Britain, the honest numbers behind it, and the size of the green jobs market.	**Friday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**
Ep 6: Putting It All Together A practical recap. What to check, who to ask, and what to do first if you want to use plug-in solar upon release.	**Saturday & Sunday**	**10:45 (AM & PM)**

Learning Outcomes

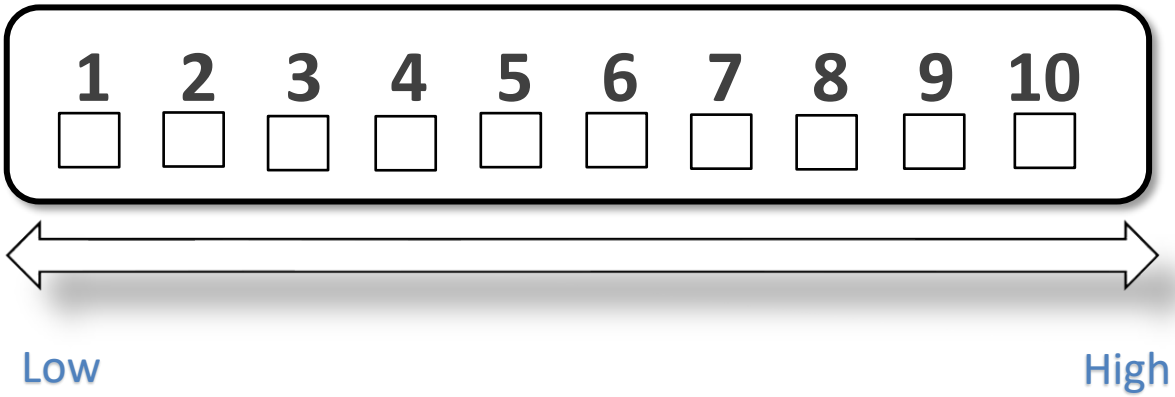
1. Understand what plug-in solar is, why it was not allowed in the UK before and the new law.
2. Understand how a kit turns sunlight into electricity for your home, what keeps it safe, and the rules that must be followed.
3. Costs of a kit, how much money it can realistically save, and work out how long it takes to pay for itself.
4. Understand how quickly this market has grown in Europe, who the technology is for, and the types of work it creates.
5. Understand what clean energy has changed in Britain and be able to use real figures to explain it to someone else.
6. Identify the practical steps and permissions needed before using plug-in solar and know who to ask for help.

Starting Out

Consider the learning outcomes above.

On a scale of 1 -10, how would you rate your knowledge of '**Plug-In Solar**' before starting this course?

(Please tick the appropriate box)



At the end of this course, you will have the opportunity to rate your knowledge once more.

Knowledge Check

To pass this course you will need to correctly answer **80%** of the questions.

This equates to **39** correct answers out of the 48 marks available.

Episode 1

Question 1

On what date did plug-in solar become legal in Great Britain?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	24 March 2026	
B	16 July 2026	
C	27 August 2026	
D	1 January 2027	

Question 2

What was the main thing stopping plug-in solar from being used in the UK?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	The panels were found to be unsafe	
B	A standard plug could not push power into a socket	
C	Solar panels were too expensive to buy	
D	There is not enough sunshine in the UK	

Question 3

True or False: The most a legal plug-in solar kit can put out is 800 volt-amps, usually written as 800 watts

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	True	
B	False	

Question 4

How many watts of solar panels is a legal kit allowed to have?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	800 watts	
B	1,200 watts	
C	2,000 watts	
D	4,000 watts	

Question 5

Which of these are true about a legal plug-in solar kit?

(Please tick all appropriate boxes)

A	It must be a complete kit that has been certified as one product	
B	It can include a battery	
C	It must be listed on the ENA G98 Type Test Register	
D	You can build your own from parts bought separately	

Question 6

In your own words, explain why plug-in solar could not be used in the UK before August 2026.

Episode 2

Question 1

What does the microinverter in a plug-in solar kit do?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	It stores electricity in a battery for later	
B	It changes the electricity from the panel into the type your home uses	
C	It cleans dirt off the surface of the panel	
D	It measures how much money you have saved	

Question 2

What does 'anti-islanding' mean?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	The kit only works on one island of the National Grid	
B	The kit works better when it is near the sea	
C	The kit switches to battery power in a power cut	
D	The kit shuts itself off within milliseconds if the grid goes down	

Question 3

Currently, how many plug-in solar devices is one household allowed to have?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	One in every room	
B	One	
C	As many as you like	
D	Two	

Question 4

Which of these must happen before a kit is used?

(Please tick all appropriate boxes)

A	Tell your Distribution Network Operator using the free G98 form	
B	Plug the kit into an extension lead for safety	
C	Get permission from your landlord or freeholder if you rent or lease	
D	Plug the kit directly into a fixed wall socket	

Question 5

True or False:

A plug-in solar kit will keep your home powered during a blackout.

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	True	
B	False	

Question 6

In your own words, explain what 'anti-islanding' does and why it matters to the people who work on the electricity network.

Episode 3

Question 1

Roughly how much does an 800-watt plug-in solar kit cost in the UK?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	£100 - £200	
B	£400 - £600	
C	£1,000 - £1,500	
D	£2,500 or more	

Question 2

In the government's figures, a kit tilted at 30 degrees and facing south saves roughly how much a year?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	£30	
B	£70	
C	£110	
D	£250	

Question 3

Why does a kit mounted upright facing east and west generate less but uses a higher share of what it makes?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	The panels are more powerful in the morning	
B	It spreads its output across the morning and afternoon, closer to when people use electricity	
C	Upright panels are always cleaner	
D	East and west panels are cheaper to buy	

Question 4

A kit costs £500 and saves £110 a year. Roughly how long will it take to pay for itself?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	About 2 years	
B	About 4 and a half years	
C	About 10 years	
D	About 20 years	

Question 5

True or False:

You are paid for any electricity a plug-in solar kit sends back to the grid.

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	False	
B	True	

Question 6

A kit costs £600 and saves £70 a year. Work out roughly how many years it will take to pay for itself. Show your working in the box below.

Episode 4

Question 1

By the end of 2025, roughly what share of German households had a registered plug-in solar system?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	About 0.5%	
B	About 3%	
C	About 10%	
D	About 25%	

Question 2

Who is plug-in solar mainly designed for in Britain?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	Farmers with land to spare	
B	People who already own a large house with a big roof	
C	People who work night shifts	
D	People in flats and rented homes who have no roof of their own	

Question 3

Which of these jobs have been created due to this new industry?

(Please tick all appropriate boxes)

A	Importing kits and checking they meet the rules	
B	Retail and customer service	
C	Warehousing and logistics	
D	Running the National Grid control room	

Question 4

True or False:

A plug-in solar kit can be taken down and moved with you when you change home.

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	True	
B	False	

Question 5

Who would be the best people to speak to in your establishment about qualifications in this area?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	The Head of Learning and Skills and the employment lead	
B	The kitchen staff	
C	Another learner on this course	
D	Nobody - you must wait until release	

Question 6

Name two jobs created by the plug-in solar industry and explain in a short sentence what one of them involves.

Word Count: 30-60 words

Episode 5

Question 1

When did Britain stop generating electricity from coal?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	September 2024	
B	January 2020	
C	March 2026	
D	It still does	

Question 2

What share of the UK's electricity came from renewable sources in 2025?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	22.1%	
B	32.1%	
C	52.1%	
D	72.1%	

Question 3

The IPCC puts the lifetime emissions of rooftop solar at about 41 grams of carbon dioxide per unit of electricity. Coal is about 820 grams. Roughly how much cleaner is solar?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	About twice as clean	
B	Five times cleaner	
C	About 100 times cleaner	
D	About 20 times cleaner	

Question 4

How long does a modern solar panel take to repay the energy used to make it?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	Between 1 and 3 years	
B	Between 10 and 15 years	
C	About 25 years	
D	It never repays it	

Question 5

Which of these are real problems still to be solved?

(Please tick all appropriate boxes)

A	Solar generates when the sun shines, not always when power is needed	
B	Parts of the electricity network cannot carry all the power being built	
C	Recycling panels at the end of their life is a young industry	
D	Solar panels stop working after five years	

Question 6

Someone tells you that solar panels use more energy to make than they will ever produce. Using what you have learnt, explain why this is not correct.

Word Count: 30-60 words

Episode 6

Question 1

You rent your flat. What is the first thing you should do before setting up a kit?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	Set it up and tell the landlord afterwards	
B	Ask your landlord for permission	
C	Ask the neighbours if they mind	
D	Nothing - renters do not need permission	

Question 2

What should you check before buying a kit?

(Please tick all appropriate boxes)

A	It comes with a declaration that it meets the product specification	
B	It is listed on the ENA G98 Type Test Register	
C	It is a complete kit including the mounting system	
D	It comes with a battery included	

Question 3

What is wrong with this sentence? 'I will run my solar kit through an extension lead so I can reach the balcony.'

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	Balconies are not allowed to be used at all	
B	Solar kits can only be used indoors	
C	Nothing - this is fine	
D	Extension leads and adaptors must not be used. The kit must go into a fixed wall socket	

Question 4

Who do you have to notify before using a kit, and what does it cost?

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	Your energy supplier, and it costs £50	
B	The local council, and it costs £25	
C	Your Distribution Network Operator, and it is free	
D	Nobody needs to be told	

Question 5

True or False:

If a home has old wiring, or a fuse box with old-style rewirable fuses, it should be checked by a qualified electrician first.

(Please tick the appropriate box)

A	True	
B	False	

Question 6

List three things you would need to check or do before using a plug-in solar kit at home.

Word Count: 30-60 words, *(2 marks available)*

Workplace Scenarios

Question 1 (Episode 2/6)

Scenario: You have just moved into a rented flat with a small balcony. You have bought a certified plug-in solar kit. A friend tells you to just put it up and say nothing, because the landlord will never notice and it is your electricity bill anyway.

Explain why you should ask the landlord first and describe one other thing you would need to do before using the kit.

Word Count: 50-100 words, (*2 marks available*)

Question 2 (Episode 1/2)

Scenario: Someone offers to sell you a set of solar panels and a separate inverter for half the price of a proper kit. There is no paperwork with it, and it is not listed on the register of approved products. They tell you it is the same equipment, just cheaper.

Explain why this would be a problem and what you would look for instead when choosing a kit?

Word Count: 50-100 words, (*2 marks available*)

Question 3 (Episode 3)

Scenario: Your neighbour paid £550 for a kit after reading that it would save £250 a year. Their panels are mounted upright on an east-facing balcony, and the flat is empty all day while they are at work. Their first year saved them about £70. They think they have been ripped off.

Explain why their savings are lower than they expected and suggest one practical change that could improve it.

Word Count: 50-100 words, (*2 marks available*)

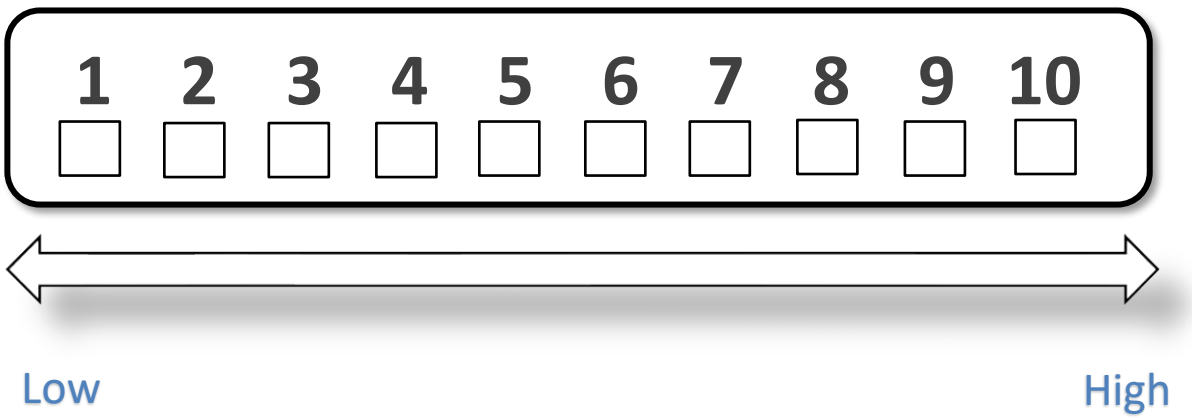
Learning Evaluation

You must comment on the three most important things you have learnt and complete distance travelled.
1..... .... 2..... .... 3..... ....

Distance Travelled

Now that you have completed this course, on a scale of 1 -10, how would you rate your knowledge of Plug-In Solar?

(Please tick the appropriate box)



End of Knowledge Check

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Course Feedback – Introduction to Plug-In Solar

TO QUALIFY FOR A MUG OR WATER BOTTLE YOU MUST COMPLETE IN FULL, THE LEARNING EVALUATION. THIS IS A VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE THIS YOUR WORKBOOK WILL STILL BE MARKED AND CERTIFICATED, BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY OF OUR INCENTIVISED GIFTS.

Please clearly write your full name here:

We value your feedback. Please rate each aspect on the scale below:

1. **The quality, style and tone of the videos.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Low **High**

2. **The clarity of the answer book.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Low **High**

3. **Your enjoyment of this course.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Low **High**

Please tell us what you enjoyed most about this course

Please give us one suggestion to improve this course