



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

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Briefing the Candidate for Initiation (support material)

The following information is intended to be explained to the Candidate shortly before their Initiation. It is intended to help them prepare mentally and physically and to derive as much enjoyment from the experience as possible.

- Check the details concerning your Initiation contained in the letters you will have received from the Lodge Secretary. These cover venue, times, dress code, payment of fees & subscription and your reply to a toast to you, proposed by one of your sponsors.
- The ceremony of Initiation into Freemasonry is intended to be a happy, memorable and meaningful experience. Once Initiated you will remain a Freemason, even if you resign your membership of this or any other Lodges that you might join in the future.
- The ceremony being largely symbolic, it is unlikely that you will understand all that happens at the time.
- By reflection, discussion with others and through your own study you will in time be able to make sense of the symbolism and the experience.
- Everyone present has undertaken exactly the same ceremony as you are about to do.
- The ceremony will create a lasting bond between you and the other members of the Lodge, built on mutual trust and respect.
- **If Practical:** Your Personal Mentor, and / or, one or more of your sponsors, will arrange to collect you and take you to the meeting, and to return you home afterwards.
- When you arrive at the Lodge's meeting place you will be introduced to a number of members, including the Master of the Lodge and two officers, the Tyler and the Junior Deacon. These three have the most significant roles to play in the early part of the meeting.
- You will be asked to remain outside the Lodge Room until it is time for your ceremony to start. This is so that the Lodge can deal with the ordinary business of opening the Lodge, approving the minutes of the previous meeting and other essential administration.
- The Tyler, will remain with you during this period, and will prepare you for the ceremony. One of your Sponsors or your Personal Mentor can also remain with you if you wish.
- The Tyler will ask you to make some adjustments to your clothing and will blindfold you immediately before you are admitted to the Lodge Room. The blindfold symbolises your passage from the darkness of ignorance to the light of truth and understanding. The other adjustments also have symbolic meaning that will be explained to you at a later point.
- Another officer of the Lodge, the Inner Guard, will receive you into the Lodge and from then on you will be in the care of the Junior Deacon, who will be at your side at all times during the ceremony.
- The Master of the Lodge will conduct the ceremony and theirs will be the main voice that you hear. At certain times they will address you and will ask you certain questions.
- The Junior Deacon will dictate the answers to all the questions that you will be asked during the ceremony. Do not respond to any questions until prompted to do so by the Junior Deacon.
- The Master will dictate to you an obligation (similar to an oath) which they will ask you to repeat, in short phrases. At the start they will say, "State your name at length, and repeat after me ..." to which your response should be, "I [your full name], ..." followed by each phrase as it is dictated by the Master.



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- You will take the obligation with your right hand on a Holy Book of your choosing. Please give us good notice of the Book you wish us to use.
- Some Lodges Initiate more than one Candidate at the same meeting. If this is the case the process will be explained to you.
- Following the ceremony in the Lodge Room you will join the other members at a meal after which you will be asked to respond to a toast. One of your sponsors will provide guidance as to how to address the meeting and what your response should contain. It is acceptable to write your response in full in advance and to read it aloud.
- Most of all we want you to enjoy the experience of Initiation and the evening as a whole. Please try to remember what happens so that you can reflect upon it later as you seek to understand its meaning.