GCE in Applied ICT

Student Guide

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You would benefit most from a GCE in Applied ICT if you have one or more of the following:
- four GCSEs at grade A*-C
- other level 2 qualifications such as GCSE (Double Award) in Applied ICT at grades AA-CC; Intermediate GNVQ in ICT; Edexcel Qualification in Digital Applications; Edexcel BTEC First Diploma IT Practitioners

You should also have an interest in developing the knowledge and skills you need to be a competent and informed ICT user and practitioner.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You will enjoy this course if you would like to:
- be able to select and use appropriate ICT tools and techniques to help you carry out investigations; capture and handle data; solve problems; make decisions; present and communicate information
- increase your awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of ICT and its impact on the way people live their lives
- learn how to plan and manage projects and work effectively with others

Is the qualification structured like other GCEs?

Yes, the qualification has an AS/A2 structure.
AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is the first half of the Advanced GCE course. It is a stepping stone to the full Advanced GCE qualification. You can take the AS on its own, if you and your teacher agree that this is best for you. You can also decide at the end of the AS course to continue with the course and take the A2 units for the full Advanced GCE qualification.

You can study for:
A Single Award AS GCE: Units 1, 2, 3
A Double Award AS GCE: Units 1-6
A Single Award Advanced GCE (6 units): Units 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, plus one unit from 10, 11, 12
A Double Award Advanced GCE (12 units): Units 1 - 9 plus any three units from Units 10 - 14

What will I learn about on this course?

The AS units focus on developing your communication and decision - making skills. You will learn about:

- The Information Age - Unit 1
- The Digital Economy - Unit 2
- The Knowledge Worker - Unit 3
- System Design and Installation - Unit 4
- Web Development - Unit 5
- Technical Support - Unit 6

In the A2 units you will learn about:

- Using Database Software - Unit 7:
- Managing ICT projects - Unit 8
- Communications and Networks - Unit 9
- Using Multimedia Software - Unit 10
- Using Spreadsheet Software - Unit 11
- Customising Applications - Unit 12
- Web Management - Unit 13
- Programming - Unit 14

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in Units 3, 7 and 9 by assignments set by Edexcel that ask you to carry out practical, 'hands-on' tasks. You will collect evidence of your work for the other units in an eportfolio. This is designed to be viewed on screen and will showcase your achievements. It will be assessed by your teacher and moderated by Edexcel.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The GCE in Applied ICT qualifies for UCAS points so if you complete it successfully you could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in related subjects such as ICT, Computer Science, Information Systems, Multimedia, Software Engineering, Computer Networking, e-Business and Information Management. You could also go on to work based training such as IT User/Practitioner NVQs or vendor-specific qualifications.

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