



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: Schools delivering Critical Thinking

Date: October 2008 (***Re-issued for clarification in March 2009 – clarifications indicated in bold italics in the side-lined paragraphs.***)

Subject: Critical Thinking GCE A level

This is an important notice about the change over period from the current (legacy) GCE Critical Thinking specification to the new.

Schools delivering Critical Thinking to years 10 and 11

Centres that deliver Critical Thinking AS over a two year period should be aware that transfer of AS credit from the legacy GCE specification to the new specification is not possible. This means that those students who sit the AS units (F491 and F492) in 2009 will not be able to complete the legacy A Level if they move on to Further Education, as legacy A2 units will not be available in 2010 ***except as re-sit provision***. Further Education centres will commence teaching the new specification from September 2008 and this will mean that only students who have sat the new AS units (F501 and F502) will be eligible to continue to A Level by taking the new A2 units (F503 and F504) from 2010 onwards.

There have been some changes to the new AS units F501 and F502 in the distribution of skills. The assessment of some skills has been drawn back from unit 2 into unit 1 but otherwise the content is largely similar. It is strongly advised that you enter students for the new AS units (F501 and F502) in 2009 rather than the legacy specification AS units (F491 and F492).

JCQ and OCR have issued notices concerning the final examination dates for the legacy specification in 2007. However, you may not have considered the full implications for AS students in years 10 and 11 who intend to move on to Further Education during the change-over period.

You should be reassured that there is still time to move on to the new specification if you act now.

Centres delivering Critical Thinking A Level in one year

Some centres deliver the course in one year and if you do this (beginning in September 2008) you can still do the whole A Level on the legacy specification (F491-4).

First and last examination dates

The ***last available re-sit*** sitting for the legacy AS (F491 and F492) is June 2009; the ***last re-sit sittings*** for the legacy A2 (F493 and F494) ***are January and June 2010.***

The ***first*** sitting of the new AS (F501 and F502) was January 2009; the ***first*** sitting of the new A2 (F503 and F504) will be January 2010.

Any enquiry about this notice should be referred to the OCR Customer Contact Centre, (01223 553998), OCR, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU.