

# AS/A Level GCE in Critical Thinking for Teaching from September 2005

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## Structure of new qualifications

Unit	Level	Name of unit	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting	
					AS	Advanced GCE
1	AS	Credibility of Evidence	Written Exam	1 hour 15 minutes	40	20
2	AS	Assessing and Developing Argument	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	60	30
3	A2	Resolution of Dilemmas	Written Exam	1 hour 15 minutes	-	20
4	A2	Critical Reasoning	Written Exam	1 hour 45 minutes	-	30

Candidates must take Units 1 and 2 for the AS GCE award and all four units for the full Advanced GCE award.

Units 1 and 2 will be available in every session **from January 2006** onwards.

Units 3 and 4 will be available in every session **from June 2006** onwards.

## Content

These specifications seek to bring together the skills involved in thinking and arguing in a critical and logical way. The aim is to provide candidates with a framework which can be applied in a practical manner to a range of materials, situations, problems and issues. There is not an obvious major body of content to deliver, but rather a range of skills which candidates should be enabled to acquire.

Candidates doing this course should learn to:

- understand and apply the language of reasoning;
- understand and apply different patterns of reasoning;
- recognise and evaluate special kinds of reasoning;
- judge the credibility of sources;
- assess arguments;
- develop and present relevant arguments;
- recognise and apply basic logical ideas.

## Question Papers

Unit 1 *Credibility of Evidence* has structured questions based on one or more stimulus passages. Candidates should attempt all questions. (80 marks)

Unit 2 *Assessing and Developing Argument* has twenty multiple-choice questions and questions based on one or more stimulus passages. Candidates should attempt all questions. (120 marks)

Unit 3 *Resolution of Dilemmas* has structured questions based on two or more stimulus passages. Candidates should attempt all questions. (80 marks)

Unit 4 *Critical Reasoning* has twenty multiple choice questions. This unit also requires candidates to produce a piece of extended writing in response to an extended stimulus passage. Candidates should attempt all questions. (110 marks)

## Support for Teachers

- Online training via For Teachers.
- E-community site.
- Teaching resources.
- Teacher's Guidance Booklet and specimen assessment materials.
- A full programme of In-Service training meetings arranged by OCR Training and Customer Support Division (telephone 0121 628 2950).
- Past question papers and mark schemes
- A report on the examination, compiled by senior examining personnel after each examination session.
- Endorsed publisher textbooks.
- Generic training in Critical Thinking available from Mill Wharf Training and Consultancy Services [www.mill-wharf-training.co.uk](http://www.mill-wharf-training.co.uk).
- Regional Networks offered through OCR Regional offices.

## Further Information

The full specification will be published on the OCR website by October 2004.

Training for both teachers and curriculum managers is available for these new qualifications. For further information please go to the Training section of the OCR website or telephone OCR Training on 0121 628 2950.

If you have any further enquiries about these qualifications please contact the OCR Information Bureau on 01223 553998.