OCR
RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

New A Level ICT

H117 and H517 replacing 3838 and 7838

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level ICT specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of ICT.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit **www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels**

QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve A Level ICT is to be reduced from six to four
- Coursework has stayed at 40%
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment

Mapping the changes to the ICT specification for first teaching September 2008

H117 and H517 replacing 3838 and 7838

Candidates must complete six units

	Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Existing specification						
AS	Information, Systems and Communications	**2512** Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	• This now forms part of unit one. • The following remains the same: – Data, Information, knowledge and processing. – Components of an Information System. – User interface software. – The role and impact of ICT – legal, moral and social issues.	• The emphasis for this unit is for business ICT focus, rather than a more traditional computing perspective. • Moving the more technical topics such as networking (the detail of) into the new A2 theory unit. • Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge in general and within the context of a scenario. • New unit code G061.	• Some of the content has been removed as it was felt that it was more suited to GCE Computing/A2 GCE ICT. • To allow candidates to further develop the skills associated with applying ICT to produce solutions to real or realistic problems.	• The new specification will have detailed sample assessment materials for the two examinable units.
AS	Structured Practical ICT Tasks	**2513** Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) Coursework	• This unit has essentially stayed the same, the title will now be Structured ICT Tasks. • This unit has remained the same due to customer feedback.	• The size of this unit has reduced slightly and the marks are now out of 80 (previously out of 120 marks). • New unit code G062.	• This has changed due to QCA stipulations that this A Level needs to be reduced from six units to four units.	• There will be detailed coursework guidance available for this unit.
AS	Practical Applications of ICT using Standard/Generic Applications Software	**2514** Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	• Some elements of this unit can now be found in the new unit one: – Characteristics of standard applications software and application areas. – Applications software used for presentation and communication of data. – Application software for modelling data. – Relational databases.	• Much of the content derived from this unit remains the same. • Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge in general and within the context of a scenario. • New unit code G061.	• This is merged with the other AS theory unit 2512 to create the AS theory unit in the new GCE ICT. • To allow candidates develop further the skills associated with applying ICT to produce solutions to real or realistic problems.	• The new specification will have detailed sample assessment materials for the two examinable units.
A2	Communications Technology and its application	**2515** Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	• Elements from this unit can now be found in the new unit three: – Features of Networked Systems and the Systems Cycle. – Communications and Networked Systems. – The Role and Implications of Communication Systems. – Applications of ICT.	• Much of the content derived from this unit remains in the qualification. • New unit code G063.	• This is merged with the other A2 theory unit 2517 to create the A2 theory unit in the new GCE ICT. • ICT content has been updated to reflect new technologies.	• The new specification will have detailed sample assessment materials for the two examinable units.

Existing specification		What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Current unit title	**Unit code**				
ICT Project (A2)	**2516** Mandatory 20% (A Level) Coursework	• This unit still remains user focussed, including interaction with clients to solve a realistic problem.	• The size of this unit has reduced slightly and the marks are now out of 80 (previously out of 120 marks). • New unit code G064.	• Criteria have been rewritten to make the project more accessible for projects covering a wider variety of application software.	• Exemplar work.
ICT Systems and Systems Management (A2)	**2517** Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	• Elements from this unit can now be found in the new unit three: • Designing Computer-based Information Systems. • Implementing Computer-based Information Systems. • Implications of ICT.	• The paper for the new unit now has two sections: Section A – consists of short questions. Section B – these are mainly essay-style questions where candidates are required to apply skills to scenarios. • 'Information and the organisation' this topic area has been reduced. • New unit code G063.	• To reduce the large amount of subject content.	• The new specification will have detailed sample assessment materials for the two examinable units.

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14-19 CHANGES
A LEVEL

Candidates must complete four units

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	**Information, Systems and Applications.**	**G061** Mandatory 60% (AS) 30% (A Level) 2hr exam	• This unit covers the fundamental knowledge required to support all subsequent units of study. It is intended to provide candidates with a deeper understanding and knowledge of basic concepts covered by a GCSE (Short Course) syllabus in ICT. It will provide candidates with a firm grounding for the rest of the qualification.	
AS	**Structured ICT Tasks**	**G062** Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) Coursework	• This unit provides candidates with the opportunity to try a variety of packages, through board set tasks and gain wide experience whilst learning about design and testing of solutions. Candidates gain communication and presentation skills that can be transferred into the business world.	• OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. • More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.
A2	**ICT Systems, Applications and Implications**	**G063** Mandatory 30% (A Level) 2hr exam	• The skills learnt in this unit can apply to many other business situations that involve systems cycles. Skills learnt here are applied to real world examples. • A variety of areas are included here to bring this qualification up to date, including GPS and digital TV. Candidates gain an understanding of new ways systems can be implemented and the impact of ICT. • Stretch and challenge is contained in the A2 units, and in unit three this consists of essay style questions demonstrating candidates knowledge and ability to apply it to a specific context.	
A2	**ICT Project**	**G064** Mandatory 20% (A Level) Coursework	• Synoptic assessment is mainly found within this unit and candidates have the opportunity to build of the skills they have learnt throughout the qualification.	

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