

FAO: The Head of Performing Arts

Dear Colleague,

## Re: Specification Issue 2

You will have recently received a copy of the revised specification for Applied GCE Performing Arts together with a booklet of Sample Assessment Materials. This letter will clarify a few points which will help you in the first year of assessment.

### First assessment - Summer 2010 - Both AS and A2 Candidates

As you are aware, Edexcel have updated its Applied GCEs to bring them in line with the new suite of GCEs and the revised specifications will be for first teaching from September 2009. The changes are relatively minor, mainly to assessment, and you'll find that you don't need to change your current teaching and learning approach to accommodate these changes. The most important point to note is, all candidates both AS and A2, will need to be assessed under the revised specification. In other words, all candidates sitting in June 2010 will need to be assessed under the new "four" Mark Band in the specification.

### Unit 3 and 7 - Practical Units

Paragraph six on page four of the sample material booklet - Unit 3 [beginning 'Each group must prepare...'] should have read:  
*'Each candidate must submit a working log that details all aspects of the development process including research, exploration, practical application and ongoing evaluation'*. This requirement is on page 38 of the specification and should also be repeated in Commission Briefs.

Similarly with regard to unit 7 on page 12 of the booklet the fifth paragraph [beginning 'Each group must prepare...'] should read:  
*'Each candidate must prepare a supporting document that explains the group's interpretation of the source material and details their involvement in the creative process'*. This requirement can be found on page 91 of the specification.

All candidates, AS and A2, must ensure that they record their involvement in the creative process in response to units three and seven and make this available to the visiting moderator. The principal reason for this is to allow teacher assessors to reward candidates for their work on the process; not possible within the previous specification. It is anticipated that teachers will assess the candidates' record/log as an ongoing document to avoid an onerous task at the end of the programme and also ensure that the record is an organic and realistic account rather than an essay created after the event. In short the written log/diaries are an opportunity to reward

conscientious candidates who may not be natural performers but who contribute significantly to the creative process.

#### **Unit 4 - Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts**

This has implications for all returning A2 candidates as they now need to address three jobs instead of six and apply themselves to one. Any centres that have already embarked on unit four will not be penalised if candidates have looked at six job roles instead of three but centres should also note that the 15 marks previously awarded for presentation of the folder no longer apply.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter or any other issues relating to the Performing Arts specification, please contact our dedicated customer service line on 0844 576 0025. Alternatively, please use our "Ask the Expert" service which can be accessed through the Edexcel website.

Sincerely Yours,

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