

key stage 4 2001

GCSE Business & Communication Systems

Edexcel has developed a new GCSE in Business & Communication Systems (formerly Information Systems) in line with the revised criteria specified by QCA. This has been accredited by QCA for teaching from September 2001 and for first examination in June 2003.

Key Features

- Builds on the good practice of current Information Studies syllabuses
- Puts the use of ICT in real business contexts
- A pre-issued researched context (issued in the Autumn Term), based on a real business
- Coursework supported by exemplar material
- Teaching schemes including ICT and Key Skills opportunities
- INSET programme to cover all aspects of the qualification

Support and Materials

- Specimen papers
- Teachers' guide, including guidance on coursework
- Student guide
- Edexcel's regional network provides subject support at a local level
- Dedicated text-book

INSET

- Half day meetings around the country introducing the new specifications from autumn 2000 and continuing in 2001
- Planning meetings for the new specification start early in 2001

These INSET meetings will look at the new GCSE Business & Communication Systems specification in detail. You will also have the opportunity to raise questions. Details are in our Business and Economics Inset guide and on our website. Also look out for the INSET updates which went into schools and colleges in December 2000.

You can find a full range of specifications, specimen assessment material and student guides on our website at www.edexcel.org.uk. If you prefer, or have not received the material that you require, you may order hard copies of materials from our Publications Department on 01623 467467.

Introduction

This distinctive specification focuses on the application of skills, knowledge and understanding of up-to-date systems and allows for higher level candidates to expand the boundaries of their learning. It aims to produce candidates or employees who have a sound knowledge and understanding of Business and Communication Systems including software, hardware, data, communications systems and people. Students draw their knowledge and understanding from four main sources of information: electronic, organisations, paper and people. All aspects of the specification are compulsory which ensures that the students have a full and balanced overview of the subject.

Summary of Content

<i>Section</i>	<i>Content Summary</i>
1 Communication systems	The focus is on the process of communication using four main sources of information: electronic, organisations, paper and people
2 Data gathering, recording and presentation systems	The focus is on manual and electronic systems.
3 Money transfer systems	The focus is on different payment systems, the documents used in a business transaction and remuneration systems.
4 Constraints and influences on systems	The focus is on legislation, health and safety, security of equipment and data and operational issues.

Summary of Scheme of Assessment

The scheme of assessment is in two tiers. Foundation tier candidates take Paper 1F and 3F and submit one piece of coursework (Paper 5). This tier is targeted at grades C to G. Higher tier candidates take Paper 2H and 4H and submit one piece of coursework (Paper 5). This tier is targeted at grades A* to D.

<i>Paper</i>	<i>Mode of assessment</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Length</i>
1F or 2H	Practical Examination (Foundation or Higher)	35%	1h 30 min
3F or 4H	Written Examination (Foundation or Higher) - (Context issued in Autumn Term)	40%	1 hour
5	Coursework	25%	one piece

Further Information

Edexcel also offers GCSE courses in Business Studies & Economics (Nuffield-BP) and both a short and full course in Business Studies. If you are interested in obtaining more information on these or any other Edexcel qualification, please contact our Customer Response Centre on 0870 240 9800, fax 020 7758 6960, or email enquiries@edexcel.org.uk.