



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
June 2012

## Engineering

## 48501/TN

### Preparation Sheet for the 2012 Examination

### Non-confidential Notes for Centres on the Use of Preparation Sheets

- All relevant teachers should study these notes **and** the Preparation Sheet from **1 February** (see paragraph 4).
- Preparation Sheet to be issued to candidates at the **beginning of March**.

#### The Preparation Sheet

- 1 For the specification named above, a Preparation Sheet is issued each year.
- 2 The Preparation Sheet will be printed on an A4 sheet and will give general guidance to candidates and details of the context for some of the questions on the examination paper. Candidates should research the context given on the Preparation Sheet. *The research context does not replace the subject content, it provides only a focus for its delivery.*
- 3 Preparation Sheets or any associated materials are not to be taken into the examination room or sent to the examiner.

#### Date of Issue

- 4 Preparation Sheets will be sent to centres in time for **1 February** to allow teachers time to prepare before giving them to the candidates at the beginning of March. The Examination Officer should provide the teacher with one copy of the Preparation Sheet and retain the remainder in secure conditions until the beginning of March. Sufficient sheets will be provided for the numbers of candidates provisionally entered for the examination in the Estimated Entries booklet. Centres which make a first entry at final entry stage or later will be sent the appropriate numbers of sheets as soon as possible.

Turn over ►

### **Centre's Role**

- 5 Teachers should note that candidates entered for this specification also have to prepare for the other subjects they are studying. Centres must decide for themselves how much time can be allowed but it is important that candidates are not permitted to spend too much time on research for the papers.
- 6 Much of the research can be delivered through normal teaching and the approach taken by teachers in delivering the subject content. Teachers may provide advice and guidance freely. They will appreciate the difficulties of taking large groups of candidates to local shops or factories, or of allowing whole classes to write individually to national organisations. The research period is likely to be of greater benefit to candidates if teachers arrange for the gathering of appropriate stimulus material, data and printed material from manufacturers, where such material would be of value.

### **Candidate's Role**

- 7 Candidates may wish to undertake individual research into the context. This might involve simply being more observant when in otherwise familiar situations or taking an individual initiative to discuss the context with friends, relatives or other appropriate people. Candidates should not spend an undue amount of time on individual research. Candidates should also be aware that the Preparation Sheet is intended only as a revision aid. If too much material is produced it is likely that valuable information will be concealed, which will make candidates' revision less effective. Teachers should remember that candidates are not permitted to take any research material into the examination room.

### **Recording Research**

- 8 In the early stages of research it may not be apparent what is worth recording and what is not. It is recommended therefore that candidates initially record information, ideas and data and then towards the end of the preparation period, select and summarise the relevant research into a form which is concise and easily used for revision, eg notes, sketches, photographs, diagrams.