

FAQ's for Vocational GCSEs (Double Award) in Engineering & Manufacturing

Q1 - Can candidates be entered for GCSE Technology as well as GCSE DA in Engineering/Manufacturing?

A1 - Centres can offer GCSE DA in Engineering/Manufacturing and GCSE Technology so long as the qualification is ours. However, if one of qualification is with a different Awarding Body then you will need to contact them.

Q2 - Do the students have to work in an industrial/college environment or can this aspect of the specification be met through teaching aids?

A2 - Teaching aids such as video's, CD Roms, Internet can be used, but delivery must emphasise the vocational element. Contacts and visits to local companies are desirable but not mandatory.

Q3 - When will centres receive Pre-release material?

A3 - Pre-release material for GCSE Double Award Engineering and Manufacturing will be dispatched during early September. Please note that centres will not receive pre-release materials unless they have submitted an early notification of entry to Edexcel.

Centres will also be able to access the pre-release material for the above subjects via the Edexcel website.

Q4 - Can students take notes and reference material into the exam? If so how much material can they take in?

A4 - Refer to the front page of the Pre-release material for unit 5318. This states that candidates may take their researched notes and sketches into the examination room and use these as reference materials. This applies to the research carried out in respect of part B of the exam, to which the Pre-release material applies. Candidates and centres should apply common-sense in deciding how much material is taken into the exam. An excess of information could be disadvantageous.

Q5 - Are students allowed to take textbooks, pages printed from the Internet?

A5 - No materials may be taken into the exam other than the candidate's personal notes and sketches, prepared by them for Part B of the exam as specified in the pre-release material. No textbooks, website printouts, course notes, are allowed.

Q6 - centre have received the same Pre-release material for GCSE Engineering and GCSE Manufacturing. Is this correct?

A6 - This is correct. The pre-release material and exam paper for 5318 is used for both qualifications.

Q7 - Where can I get hold of guidance documents?

A7 - Guidance documents such as 'Teacher's guide' can be obtained from our publications department on 01623467467 (you can order from publications through our website <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/ServicesPublications.aspx?id=65820>).

The documents available for purchase are as follows

Engineering (Double Award) Specification (UG011668)
Manufacturing (Double Award) Specification (UG011670)
Engineering (Double Award) Teachers Guide September 02 (UG011669)
Manufacturing (Double Award) Teachers' Guide (UG011671)
Engineering and Manufacturing (Double Award) Specimen Paper and Mark Schemes September 02 (UG011678)

You can also download the above documents, as well as the 'portfolio marking guidance' and the 'Candidate Kit' from our Edexcel website - www.edexcel.org.uk.

Q8 - When using the marking grid, must a candidate meet all of the requirements for, say mark band 1 before they can achieve marks in mark band 2?

A8 - No. Please refer to P1 & P2 of the portfolio Marking Guidance, and to the relevant section of the specifications, 'Assessment' and 'Guidance for Teachers'. The appropriate mark band and mark should be identified. Assessors should apply a holistic approach and apply professional judgement. For full marks in a particular assessment criterion, all of the requirements must be met. Those familiar with marking GVQ portfolio work should note that this represents a different approach to that with which they are familiar.

Q9 - is it possible for a student to get a grade if they only complete 2 units?

A9 - No. If the caller thinks that there are mitigating circumstances they should discuss this with our special consideration department.

Q10 - what training or feedback meetings are available for GCSE in Engineering and Manufacturing?

A10 - Edexcel Professional Development and Training Team organise training events that provide advice and guidance related to the full range of our qualifications. For more information please contact the Professional and Development Team:

Telephone: 0870 240 9800

E-mail: trainingenquiries@edexcel.org.uk

Or you can find more information on our Edexcel website on:
<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/SectionHome.aspx?id=60039>

Q11 - The tested unit for GCSE Engineering is 5318. What is the corresponding unit for Manufacturing? (Should it be 5353?)

A11 - The tested unit for Manufacturing is 5318, i.e. this test is used both for GCSE Engineering and Manufacturing. There is no such unit as 5353 and any reference to this should be disregarded.

Q12 - How many times may candidates resit a unit of the GCSEs in Engineering and Manufacturing?

A12 - Students may resit each assessment component only once prior to certification. Students may, however, retake the whole qualification more than once.