

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: **To all teachers of J650 GCSE Environmental and Land-based Science, examinations officers and systems managers**

Date: September 2007

Subject: Preparation for January 2008 series computer based assessment

COMPUTER BASED TESTING

For J650 GCSE Environmental and Land-based Science: Units B491, B492, B493, B494, B495

Dear Colleague,

In January 2008 the second series of on-screen tests for OCR's GCSE Environmental and Land-based Science (ELBS) will take place. Tests for the five units B491-B495 will be available at both Foundation and Higher tiers.

Candidates will take the tests on-screen using software called '*Connect*' from Cambridge Assessment.

Prior to starting teaching this specification, centres **MUST** make sure they can meet the minimum computing and network requirements. This information is available in Appendix F of the ELBS J650 specification (www.gcse-science.com or www.ocr.org.uk).

Entries should be made in the normal way, i.e. in the way that an entry is made for any OCR GCSE paper-based examination.

To download the software and user documentation for '*Connect*':

- Login to Interchange (<https://interchange.ocr.org.uk/>)
- At the home page click on the [Vocational Qualifications \(inc. CLAiT\)](#) link
- On the left hand links click on [e-assessment](#)
- Click on [Connect](#)
- The [Overview](#) page hosts the related documentation
- The [Software](#) page hosts the installation files for Connect Control & Connect Station. It currently also hosts the software for the sample assessment tests.

It is essential that the system manager or technician installs and runs the dummy test provided in plenty of time before making entries for the live session, to ensure that the system used at the centre will operate the tests effectively.

NOTICE TO CENTRES *continued*

Centres that made entries for the June 2007 tests for Unit B493 should note that a revised version of 'Connect' will be used in 2008 and you are advised to test your centre's system with the revised version of 'Connect', as described above.

If you have any queries please email **etest@ocr.org.uk**

Any enquiry about this notice should be referred to the OCR Customer Contact Centre, (01223 553998), OCR, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU.