

GCSE ICT is changing

www.ocr.org.uk/ict/gcse2010





New GCSE ICT specifications are being introduced by all awarding bodies for first teaching in 2010 to take account of the changes to the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. ICT was put on a later timescale to allow time for the functional skills pilot to take place.

What are the main changes to ICT GCSEs for 2010?

As the current market leader for GCSE ICT, we strive to develop innovative and engaging specifications. Our new GCSE ICT specification is drawing on extensive customer consultation, as well as guidance from the QCA, with the intention of producing a refreshed specification for 2010.

We have consulted widely on the changes made to the specification – asking what they mean for you and your learners so that your requirements are fully met. Your feedback is invaluable to us – knowing what is liked and what is not means provision is improved and popular features maintained. The consultation process has also involved close links with publishers and key stakeholders to ensure the new qualifications are well supported.

Changes include:

- A shift in focus, with the introduction of a more practical and hands-on approach from the outset. We consider the new GCSE ICT to be an ideal opportunity to revitalise perceptions and manage expectations to create a wholly modern and up-to-date specification.
- The replacement of ICT coursework with controlled assessment - 60% controlled assessment and 40% external assessment. Controlled assessment units are likely to have OCR set tasks which can be contextualised to suit your centre requirements.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

What is controlled assessment?

Controlled assessment is coursework in a supervised environment or classroom and will be replacing traditional coursework in ICT GCSEs from September 2010 under different levels of control. Controlled assessment has been introduced by QCA to address some of the issues raised in coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

For GCSE ICT, the controlled assessment will be 60% of the course.

How did QCA arrive at the new subject criteria?

New draft subject criteria were published for comment by QCA in Summer 2008. Further feedback was incorporated with final subject criteria being published in April 2009.

During this process, we will continue to work with teachers to produce our draft GCSE ICT specifications in July 2009, with final accredited specifications appearing in December 2009. These will be ready for first teaching from September 2010.

What does all this mean for me?

It means that from September 2010 all learners beginning a new course of GCSE ICT study will need to be working towards the new specifications. You will need to consider whether you wish to offer your learners GCSE ICT depending on the ability of your learners. The introduction of controlled assessment and functional skills may take some getting used to at the start.

Timelines



What is OCR doing?

We have been consulting widely on what the changes mean for you, in order to ensure that our new GCSE ICT qualification meets your needs and those of your learners.

We are already working closely with our publisher partner, Hodder Education, and key stakeholders to make sure that our new GCSE ICT qualification is well supported to ensure you have everything you need to teach it with confidence.

Our publisher partner, Hodder Education, will produce teacher-friendly resources for our new specifications, which will support you with the changes and help you get the best from your learners.



What can I expect from OCR?

We aim to make the changes as easy for you to manage as possible. We will do this by offering:

- Latest news and information on the developments and support – register for updates at www.ocr.org.uk/updates
- Guidance on which qualification will be most suitable for you and your learners and the different ways of making the new qualifications work for your learners
- A package of comprehensive support which will include support such as INSET training, Specimen Assessment Materials, Teacher Handbooks, Curriculum Guide, Controlled Assessment Guide, guidance on the changes and delivery, as well as materials from our publishing partner, Hodder Education.



2010 GCSE ICT Expos

At our **FREE 2010 GCSE ICT Expos** this Summer, you will have an excellent opportunity to learn about the new GCSE ICT specifications and accompanying support first-hand and provide us with valuable feedback and influence the final stages of development.

At the Expo you will:

- Be able to get information on the changes to GCSE ICT and Functional Skills ICT
- Meet subject specialists
- Speak with publishers and other support partners
- Receive information on the FREE training events for GCSE ICT in your region
- Listen to presentations for ICT, which will outline the changes and support we will be providing you with.

Expo dates for your diary!

North East – 1 July 2009

North West – 3 July 2009

London – 6 July 2009

Midlands – 10 July 2009

South West – 14 July 2009

To book your free place on one of our 2010 GCSE ICT Expo events, visit www.ocr.org.uk/eventbooker and use course ref OEXP2.

Functional Skills ICT

What are functional skills?

Functional skills are practical skills in ICT that help learners gain the most out of work, education and everyday life. We are running a three-year pilot for functional skills in ICT at all levels – Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2. The ICT pilot outcomes will help to inform the development of functional skills in ICT to complement the new GCSE ICT.

Using an engaging and 'real life' context approach, Functional Skills ICT encourages learners to use technology in ways which enables them to be confident and capable in using ICT effectively in everyday life.

All learners can benefit from Functional Skills ICT, as it will enable learners to find, select and bring together relevant information and use the knowledge and experiences gained, to develop and interpret ICT purposefully.

What do learners need to demonstrate?

In order to use ICT effectively in everyday life, learners must demonstrate that they can confidently apply, combine and adapt their ICT knowledge to new situations in their life and work. Learners must also demonstrate that they understand the role that ICT plays in the world and use ICT in ways that enable them to function as effective citizens.

Our pilot Functional Skills ICT assessments at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 are structured accordingly:



Entry Level qualification structure

- Centre assessed and externally moderated by OCR
- Learners are required to complete an activity per entry level
- Tutor Assessment Handbook contains the activity scenario and the assessment record, which tutors use to record the learner's achievements and to provide feedback
- On demand – learners can be assessed at any time convenient to you
- Available at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3.

Levels 1 and 2 qualification structure

- OCR set and marked tasks
- Comprising three practical tasks using a PC and short answer written questions
- Duration Level 1: 1 hr 30 mins
- Duration Level 2: 1 hr 30 mins
- Undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions
- Learners will be able to use software 'help' facilities
- Each assessment window is a week long, so you can timetable the assessments at a time to suit you within this week.

For more information about functional skills, including OCR's *Functional Skills Watch* newsletter, visit our website: www.ocr.org.uk/functionalskills

How do functional skills relate to the new ICT GCSEs?

- Functionality in ICT is included in the new Programmes of Study for Key Stages 3 and 4 ICT and will be assessed in the new GCSE in ICT.
- Functional Skills ICT will be a standalone qualification which is a required part of Diplomas and Apprenticeships, and is also designed to be complementary to GCSE ICT.
- It is not a requirement for learners to pass their Functional Skills ICT in order to gain a high grade in GCSE ICT, but preparing for and achieving the Functional Skills ICT will mean that learners will be well prepared for the functional aspects of GCSE ICT.

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