



GCSE ICT - ACCREDITED

SUMMARY BROCHURE

Our new accredited specification will help you to bring the practical advances in ICT to the next generation.

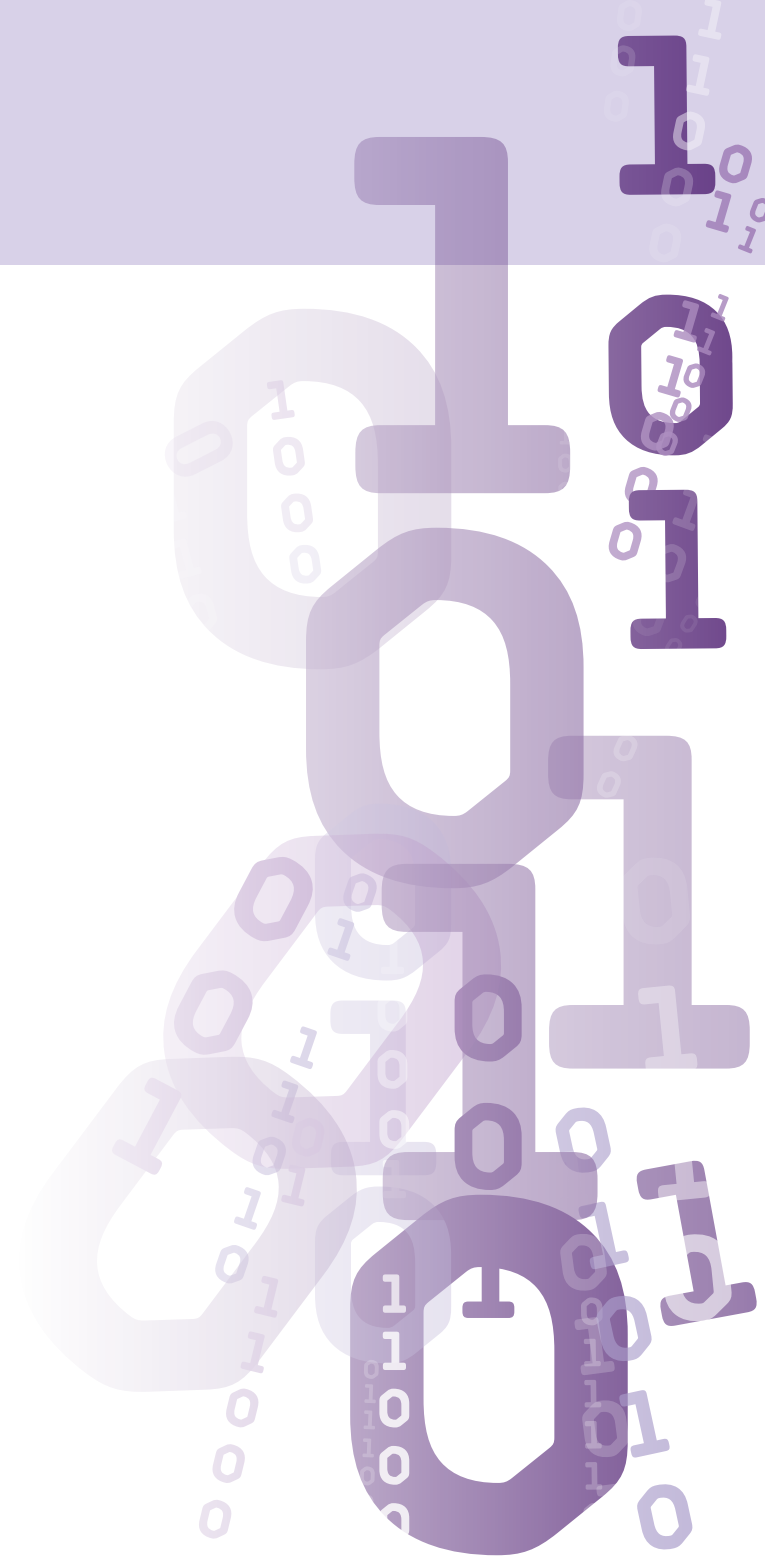
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www.ocr.org.uk/ict/gcse2010



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Introducing GCSE Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

From September 2010, learners beginning a new course of GCSE ICT study will need to be working towards the new specification.

Working in partnership with teachers and other key stakeholders in the ICT teaching community, we've carefully developed our GCSE ICT to motivate learners.

We've done this so that our new GCSE ICT specification, support materials and publisher resources will provide you with everything you need to teach our new GCSE with confidence.

You and your learners can benefit from our ICT specification because of the following:

- **Refreshed content** – Along with the popular content you'll be familiar with, we've also introduced new concepts and emerging technologies to both engage learners and enthuse teachers.
- **E-route option** – The whole qualification can be completed via an 'e-route', removing the need for paper-based evidence and avoiding the need for printing. All examined units can be assessed through computer-based or paper-based options, and all controlled assessment evidence can be submitted electronically through the OCR Repository or via the paper-based option. You pick the option that best suits your resources and the needs of your learners.

The full e-route option will be available for the first time from June 2011 assessment session and then every January and June onwards.

- **Refined marking criteria** – To ensure your learners get recognition for their work.
- **Bite-sized examined units** – The two examined units each have a 1-hour exam with a distinct purpose. This helps keep your learners motivated and allows them to focus their revision.
- **Open-ended tasks** – The qualification is accessible for a wide range of learner abilities, and open-ended tasks allow your learners to be assessed through summative assessment. This will motivate high achievers, capturing their enthusiasm and allowing them to shine.
- **Pre-release material** – This will be provided for Unit B063: 'ICT in context'. As well as helping you and your learners prepare, this will also provide the opportunity for learners to apply their ICT knowledge to a specific context.
- **Optional units** – Choose from Unit B064: 'Creative use of ICT' which utilises ICT in areas where young people often excel or Unit B065: 'Coding a solution' which introduces the concept of programming. Your choice of unit can be based on centre resources and learner interests.
- **Progression route** – It's been developed to create a stepping stone to our A Level ICT or move on to further education.

Making 2010 GCSE changes easier for you

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to manage the changes to the new GCSE.

To minimise disruption, we will:

- Make available a range of ICT support materials designed to save you time in preparing to teach our specification – including specimen assessment materials, Teacher's handbook and a Guide to Curriculum Planning.
- Tailor our publisher resources to our new specification and make them available ahead of first teaching.
- Keep you fully up to date. Look out for our *Focus on 14–19* magazine, and check in online at www.ocr.org.uk/ict/gcse2010





Course summary for GCSE ICT

Here's a summary of the course details and the Assessment Objectives for GCSE ICT:

Full course and short course

| Unit title and description | Assessment and duration | Weighting |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Unit B061: ICT in today's world Learners study a range of ICT systems, as used in the home, at school and in society. Learners need to be aware of current and emerging technologies and their impact on themselves and others. The Teacher's Handbook clearly explains what learners will need to know.</p> | <p>Written paper or computer-based test (available from June 2011) 1 hour 60 marks</p> | <p>20% full course 40% short course</p> |
| <p>Unit B062: Practical applications in ICT Learners will select from a range of set tasks which will enable them to demonstrate their practical ICT ability.</p> | <p>Controlled assessment Learners choose one task It is recommended that up to 8 hours are spent on research and up to 12 hours on producing the final piece of work. 60 marks</p> | <p>30% full course 60% short course</p> |
| <p>Unit B063: ICT in context Learners study a range of ICT systems, components, technologies and applications. The question paper will be based on pre-release material, relating to specified organisation(s) and its/their use of ICT.</p> | <p>Written paper or a computer-based test – based on pre-release material (available from June 2011) 1 hour 60 marks</p> | <p>20%</p> |
| <p>Unit B064: Creative use of ICT Learners study a range of creative software applications in order to create a solution to a given problem. They should also be aware of how to analyse the problem as well as designing, developing, testing and evaluating a solution to the problem. Learners should be able to develop either a website, a multimedia presentation or a computer game.</p> | <p>Controlled assessment Learners choose one task It is recommended that up to 8 hours are spent on research and up to 12 hours on producing the final piece of work. 60 marks</p> | <p>30%</p> |
| <p>Unit B065: Coding a solution There will be a scenario set by OCR within which learners should be able to identify a potential coded solution to a problem using basic programming techniques. The scenario will be sufficiently open to allow a variety of viable solutions.</p> | <p>Controlled assessment Learners choose one task It is recommended that up to 8 hours are spent on research and up to 12 hours on producing the final piece of work. 60 marks</p> | <p>30%</p> |

Choose from either Unit B064 or Unit B065

What stays the same, what changes?

The new GCSE ICT specification contains elements from the current provision: GCSE ICT A, ICT B and Applied ICT Double Award.

Assessment Objectives

Learners are expected to demonstrate the following:

- **AO1** Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of ICT
- **AO2** Apply knowledge, understanding and skills to produce ICT-based solutions
- **AO3** Analyse, evaluate, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions

| | What stays the same? | What changes? |
|------------|--|---|
| Structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains the familiar structure of four units – two practical and two externally assessed. • Short course and full course options. • Retains flexibility in delivery. • Similar research brief for one of the externally assessed units (as in the current ICT B). • Retains the context-based, externally assessed unit (as in the current ICT B). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional pathways for the second practical unit to ensure relevance and choice. • A contextualised, externally assessed unit, as a result of teacher feedback. • Units can be taken in any order. • No tiers. |
| Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates popular features from current specifications. • Familiar content allows you to make the most of your centre's current resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility to allow for future developments and changes in ICT use. • More focus on the communication elements of ICT. • Exciting changes to content and format. • New course allows for pathways such as a gaming solution/website solution, or programming, to maximise teacher and learner expertise and interests. • More flexibility in choice and focus on practical work. • Context-related, externally assessed unit based upon a research brief. • Variety of tasks for internal assessment to give more choice to centres. |
| Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two externally assessed units and two internally assessed units (as in the current ICT A and B specifications). • Pre-release material for one examined unit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of exciting set tasks for the practical units. • Single tier of entry for all units. • Practical assessment now by banded marking criteria with a 'best fit' approach. • Optional pathways as part of the second practical unit. |



Controlled assessment FAQs

What is controlled assessment?

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

How much will controlled assessment be worth?

In GCSE ICT, controlled assessment will be worth 60% of a learner's final mark for both the full course and the short course.

Why is controlled assessment being introduced by Ofqual?

There are a number of reasons. Firstly, it allows learners the opportunity to produce an original response without the drawbacks of 'over-preparation'. It also allows greater control, while still allowing you more freedom than is offered in examined units. Your centre decides when your learners do the assessment, and you can contextualise tasks to meet your own learners' needs.

Another advantage is that you can be confident that work is authentic, which will mean improved reliability and validity.

Who sets the task?

This is done by awarding bodies. Tasks will be reviewed every two years, and will be released during the summer term to allow you to prepare for teaching them in the following academic year. Guidance on how to access controlled assessment tasks from Interchange will be made available on the OCR website.

How much time will controlled assessment take?

You will be advised of the amount of time you should spend preparing learners for each task, as well as the time for completion of the final response after formal teaching has stopped.

Although guidance on the time for completing the final response will be given, centres can decide when this time is allocated, and how to split the time. For example if four hours are advised, you may wish to have learners use this as one session, or split the time up throughout several different sessions (e.g. four one-hour sessions). This allows centres to work controlled assessment around their existing timetables.

When can I do controlled assessment?

The task can be completed at any time, but you must make sure that you do the correct task for that year and meet the deadline for submission.

How will it be supervised?

The final response to the task must be closely supervised, either by the class teacher or another supervisor. If you choose to divide the allowed time between several sessions, centres must ensure that all work is handed in at the end of each session and held securely. Learners may bring notes in with them to these final response sessions.

How will controlled assessment responses be marked?

Teachers will mark it, much as they do now, using marking criteria supplied by the awarding body. We will provide extensive support for the tasks that are set in that year. Work will then be moderated by the awarding body.

Can I access ongoing support?

Rest assured that we will provide extensive guidance on controlled assessment at all stages of the process. We will also help centres in specific tasks that are being set for a particular year.

When can I see some controlled assessment tasks?

Some specimen controlled assessment tasks are now available on our website as part of the specimen material available for the new specification.

Live controlled assessment tasks for teaching from September 2010 will be available from 1 June 2010.

Supporting you all the way

We recognise that the introduction of the new Assessment Objectives, functional elements and controlled assessment will bring challenges for implementation and teaching. Our aim is to help you at every stage and we're working hard to provide a practical package of support in close consultation with teachers and other experts so that we can make the changes work for you. The support will be designed to save you time while you prepare for and teach our new specification.

An even better service

You can look forward to new and improved services and resources such as:

Active Results – analyse your learners' results in greater detail with our new, free online results analysis software.

- It makes richer and more granular data available to centres including question-level data from e-marking and e-testing.
- It links candidate data from OCR (grades, marks, question level) with national data already available to your centre (prior attainment and contextual data for learners).
- It enables you to identify the strengths and weaknesses of individual learners and your centre's cohort as a whole within specific qualifications.

This service is now available for the existing ICT specification. For more information, go to

www.ocr.org.uk/interchange/active_results.html

A dedicated telephone helpline – now you can call our dedicated and trained support team if you have any queries relating to the GCSE ICT qualification on **0300 500 4848**. It's available 8.00am – 5.30pm, Monday – Friday.

On top of this, our core support services will also include:

- **FREE** INSET training
- Schemes of work and lesson plans
- Teacher's handbook
- Specimen assessment materials including mark schemes
- Candidate style answers
- Guide to controlled assessment
- Specimen controlled assessment materials
- Guide to curriculum planning
- Endorsed publisher partner resources
- e-community – online forum where you can communicate with other subject specialists to share knowledge, resources, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely secure, free website that helps you and your exams officer save time on administrative tasks at examination time
- Virtual toolkit – build your own ICT toolkit at www.ict.myocronline.co.uk
- Controlled assessment consultancy
- e-alert updates – keep up to date by email. Register online at www.ocr.org.uk/2010signup





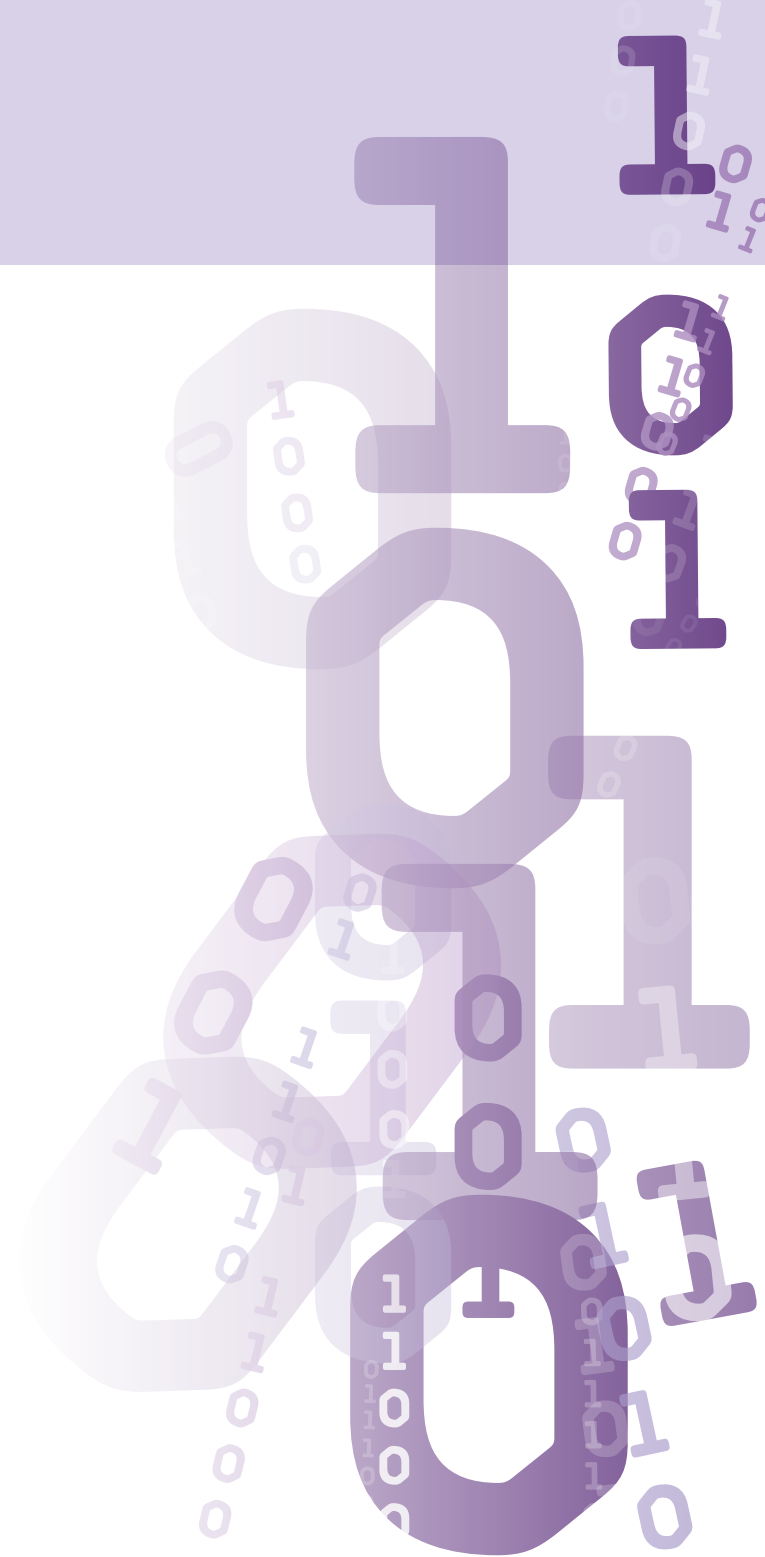
Publisher support for you



Working as OCR's publisher partner for ICT, Hodder Education will be producing exciting new resources to support the 2010 specification. Written by experts, these will include a student text, teacher pack and digital support.

978 1 444 11017 3 OCR Information and FREE
Communication Technology
for GCSE Evaluation Pack

For more information and publication dates, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/gcse2010, select your subject and choose *Published resources* from the menu on the right.



INSET training – designed for you

Available until March 2010, our **FREE** GCSE ICT *Get Ready* events will include useful information about our new specification direct from the experts. Designed to help smooth the path to the 2010 changes, they'll also provide you with an opportunity to speak face-to-face with our team.

Get Started – planning for first teaching September 2010

Available from April 2010, these constructive **FREE** full day courses will provide essential information and practical support to help you teach it.

The course will:

- Review sample assessment materials
- Answer your questions linked to the teaching of the standards
- Consider the collation of appropriate evidence for portfolio building
- Advise on resources and offer guidance on the use of teacher support materials
- Advice on preparing learners for the external assessment
- Explain the administrative procedures.

For our full list of course dates, times and locations and to **book your free place**, please visit www.ocreventbooker.org.uk using course ref. **OITH8**. An online booking will be confirmed instantly.

To find out about other ways to book, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/training or email training@ocr.org.uk.

To get the most out of our training, you may want to familiarise yourself with our accredited ICT specification beforehand. You can download it at www.ocr.org.uk/2010.





Functional skills – equip your learners for life

Functional skills are practical skills in Maths, English and ICT that help learners get the most out of work, education and everyday life.

Standalone qualification

With functionality embedded into our new GCSE ICT specification for first teaching from September 2010, your learners will be on their way to becoming equipped with the necessary skills to successfully complete OCR's standalone Functional Skills ICT assessment should they so wish.

Functional Skills ICT is recognised as a standalone qualification worth 23 points at Level 2.

Our support materials for the new GCSE will incorporate aspects of functionality and will signpost exit points to show teachers when learners are ready to sit the standalone assessment.

Furthermore, from 2011 the government is committed to introducing a new measure within the new school report card, so achieving functional skills will have a direct impact on the overall indicators of your school's performance.

Positive support for our approach to assessment

As we've moved into the third year of a very successful functional skills pilot, we're delighted that Ofqual has published qualification and subject criteria in all three subjects that show very strong support for our pilot's assessment approach. In particular, we welcome how it enables learners to demonstrate their skills in what are recognised to be 'real life contexts'.

The criteria support the assessment model we've adopted throughout our functional skills pilot; for example each assessment must be designed to assess a single level. We use open-ended, task-based assessments to draw out young people's independent thinking skills and apply them in different settings.

Full implementation of the new functional skills qualifications will begin in September 2010. To be one of the first to see our new specifications when they're released, sign up with us for email updates at www.ocr.org.uk/updates.

Introducing OCR

We're a leading UK awarding body, providing an exciting range of qualifications to meet the needs of learners of all ages and abilities.

We want to help you make the most of your passion for your subject and believe in developing specifications that help you bring it to life, so learners are more likely to engage with it and achieve more. We listen to and learn from you in order to help us improve our qualifications and support services, and to make sure you and your learners get as much as possible from our qualifications.

You'll receive full support when you're teaching our qualifications. You can enjoy free training events, and choose from a useful selection of teaching materials and resources – all written for you by expert developers to make working with us easier and more rewarding.

Next steps – your checklist

We hope we've whetted your appetite to find out more about our new GCSE ICT specification. Our range of support services will certainly help you to do just that. Why not check them out today.

- Bookmark www.ocr.org.uk/ict/gcse2010
- Be among the first to hear about support materials and resources as they become available. Register for email updates at www.ocr.org.uk/2010signup
- Book your **FREE INSET** training place online at www.ocr.org.uk/eventbooker
- Find out about controlled assessment support
- Switch to OCR and apply to be an OCR approved centre at www.ocr.org.uk/switch
- Learn more about Active Results and watch a short video at www.ocr.org.uk/interchange/active_results.html
- Join our e-community at www.ocrcommunity.org.uk/ict
- Follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/gcseict>

And don't forget...

- Send in your completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

Letting us know about your intention to offer our new GCSE will help us ensure that we have the right level of support in place to meet your needs – and it's now even easier to do! Simply fill in the enclosed EOI form and return it in the pre-paid envelope or fax back your form to 024 76 851633.

Need more help?

Our aim is to assist you however we can.

As well as giving you a toolkit of support services and resources to pick and choose from, we're also here to help you with specialist advice, guidance and support for those times when you simply need a more individual service.

Here's how to contact us for specialist advice:

By phone: 0300 500 4848

By email: ict@ocr.org.uk

By fax: 024 76 851633

By post: Customer Contact Centre, OCR, Progress House, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8JQ



www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

Vocational qualifications

Telephone 024 76 851509

Facsimile 024 76 851633

Email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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