

## **NOTICE TO CENTRES**

FAO: Teachers of GCSE Physical Education  
Date: January 2009  
Subject: GCSE Physical Education (1970, 1971 and 1071)

### **GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION – INFORMATION FOR 2009**

The report for the 2008 examination is available on the OCR website. This covers a number of issues that arose from the June 2008 series concerning both the practical components of the qualification and the written paper. Listed below are changes to the moderation process for 2009 and other information which should be of use.

#### **SP Solutions**

In September 2008, centres should have received an email from their moderator containing a complimentary copy of SP Solutions, an OCR recommended computer software package, to manage and help submit marks to OCR and its moderators for the current GCSE Physical Education specification.

This computer software is an Excel spreadsheet that has been in use for some years. It complies with the specification rubric, sorts the candidates' activities and marks, allows import of data from SIMMS and ensures your data is error free. It will also print all Order of Merit sheets and Coursework Summary Forms. There are many other similar programs in use, this one is the only one that complies with the rubric and moderators know is error free and thus does not require rigorous checks. The spreadsheet assists internal standardisation of marks.

The new GCSE Physical Education specification (J586 and J086) will need careful submission of marks. The free software sent to you by your moderator will demonstrate the programme's benefits and, we hope, encourage centres to purchase the new specification software. If you have not received your free copy of the software please contact your 2008 moderator or the Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998. OCR encourages you to use this software with your current cohort of candidates.

#### **Use of Email**

Moderators are being encouraged to use email where possible as it provides a better communication trail. Centres are asked to respond to requests from moderators as soon as possible and keep moderators informed of preferred email addresses.

This year we intend to trial requesting the names of candidates attending the moderation day by emailing forms which are to be completed and returned before the moderation day. Please work with your moderator

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to complete these forms as soon as possible. We recognise that there may be last minute changes to these lists.

## Visiting Arrangement Form

Please note that this form has changed this year. Please supply as much information as possible. When filling in numbers of candidates please include all candidates that have been marked, regardless of whether they use the activity for their final marks. Centres are asked to indicate whether activities are available for moderation by filmed footage or visit to the centre.

Any activity that could not be reasonably moderated at the centre is defined as being 'offsite'. Centres must provide filmed evidence of all offsite marks that are entered by candidates. This can be in video (Full size VHS - small cassettes vary too much), CD or DVD formats. Candidates need to be very clearly marked and the film accompanied by a written rank order (or appearance order) with marks and identifiers. Where description of the environment is relevant please include this (eg type of slope in skiing).

## Coursework Summary Form

This must list candidates in the same order as the MS1 form. Centres are reminded to use the correct codes as listed on the back of the CSF.

## Analysing Performance (AP)

Last year, in order to streamline each moderation day and to increase the size of the sample moderated, your moderator requested that you send six pieces of work to him/her before the moderation visit. This was then returned on the day of the moderation. This system worked well and was welcomed by the majority of centres, therefore, it will be adopted as the normal method of moderating this part of the coursework.

The requirement that the AP work of each candidate is in an activity that matches one of their four practical activities was relaxed last year. This worked well and this change has been made permanently to the rubric. In the majority of cases it is expected that the AP activity will be one of the candidate's activities, but this is no longer mandatory. **The AP activity must be one of the activities listed in the relevant specification.**

If a candidate is relying on a verbal response for their mark this **must** be supported by video evidence. The video should contain the questions and answers and be led by the member of staff. It is envisaged that each candidate would present for approximately 6 minutes. It is expected that most candidates will continue to present written work. Centres may use whichever method is most appropriate for their candidates. The AP additional guidelines (issued in Oct 2005) are available on the OCR web site [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).

The emphasis should be on the candidate's ability to look at a performance and identify weaknesses and demonstrate knowledge of how to improve these weaknesses. Large amounts of material on required activity qualities/skills and knowledge about fitness will not gain marks. Applied, relevant knowledge is required. Where an activity is highly fitness dependant (eg distance running) then improvement, through a fitness programme, is relevant. Otherwise, candidates should concentrate on progressive skill improvement. Good training programmes mention a time frame but do not list activities for each day of the week. Instead they concentrate on how a weakness will be developed through progressive practices.

## Exercise Area

Candidates can only offer **one** activity from this area of the specification. Candidates choosing an exercise activity must offer activities from a further **two** activity areas giving a total of **three** areas. The exercise activity area concentrates on exercise and is not an opportunity to introduce new activities, eg Mountain Biking into Cycling.

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