IGCSE Information Technology (0418) – Frequently Asked Questions

When is the earliest I can enter candidates for this new syllabus?
June 2003

Why should I introduce this syllabus, rather than IGCSE Computer Studies?
It was developed to offer more choice. Some Centres prefer not to do coursework and have more examinations. Also, the practical test papers are set in a workplace context, making this highly relevant to the skills students will need in employment. Both syllabuses will continue to exist side-by-side, allowing you the option.

Are there specimen papers available for all components?
Yes, these are available to order from Publications or on our new website.

How and when are the practical tests available?
You will be sent an e-mail address and password to request these papers from CIE. They will then be sent out via an auto-respond e-mail message, though Centres will be responsible for ensuring that the papers are received by an authorised member of staff only and then kept securely prior to the assessment taking place.

The specimen practical test papers require the candidates to use specific files. How does this work?
When you receive the auto-respond e-mail message with the relevant papers, you will also get a number of 'source data' files. These should be made available to candidates on your network or via individual PCs, in accordance with the instructions issued.

Paper 3 requires candidates to use e-mail and the internet. Is it possible to do this off-line?
Yes, although this paper does ask candidates to access a particular website and send an e-mail to a specific address, if you have concerns about your internet connection speed, then it is acceptable to send e-mails internally and access the site off-line during the assessment.

Paper 4 requires candidates to use colour, transitions and animimations. How can the examiner see those on a black and white printout?
It is not possible to assess these on paper and so this is why we require the tutor to sign to say that he/she has seen the candidate successfully achieving these particular Performance Critieria. In the future it will be possible to submit candidates' work electronically, which will overcome this problem.