

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Chinese (Mandarin) (4670)

The following changes apply to the hard copy version of the specification (Version 1.0), issued for first teaching in September 2009. The web version (Version 1.5) has already been updated.

Section 3.4 – Unit 3 Speaking

The wording 'Pronunciation and Intonation' in the assessment criteria has been changed to 'Pronunciation and Tones'. The criteria for five marks is now 'Consistently good accent and tones'.

Section 3.5 – Unit 4 Writing

The following wording has been added:

'Students may word process one of their two controlled assessments or, if preferred, produce both assignments in handwritten Chinese characters. Centres must ensure that the software pupils use will only give a list of characters from which to choose when pinyin is entered and that it will not suggest or correct characters or sentences, in the manner of predictive testing. Limited use of pinyin is acceptable in the handwritten assignments but may affect the Range of Language mark, if excessive. Assessments may be written in traditional or simplified characters.'

The reduced word guidance for Chinese (Mandarin) only is:

- 100–250 characters across the two tasks for students aiming at grades G–D
- 200–300 characters across the two tasks for students aiming at grades C–A*.

Candidates may deny themselves access to higher marks if they produce tasks with the minimum number of characters indicated.

All controlled assessment documentation from the *Teacher Resource Bank* (go to aqa.org.uk and then: *Qualifications/GCSE/Languages/Chinese (Mandarin)/Key Materials*) has been adapted to reflect these changes.

Please check the AQA Chinese (Mandarin) web pages regularly for updated information and a wide range of support materials and guidance. A dedicated team of language specialists is available to support teachers of Chinese (Mandarin) and can be contacted at mfl@aqa.org.uk or **01423 534 381**.

Bengali (4635)

Modern Hebrew (4675)

Panjabi (4680)

Polish (4685)

Unit 3 Speaking

Breakdown of marks

From summer 2011, centres will be able to request a breakdown of marks on Detailed Mark Sheet (DMS) forms for GCSE Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi and Polish. As part of the Priority Access to Scripts service/Scripts to Support Teaching and Learning Access to Scripts service, this should be requested via e-AQA. The cost is £4.00 per candidate.

Return of recordings 2011

From summer 2011, centres will also be able to request the return of all their recordings.

The recordings and breakdown of marks will be returned for the full cohort – individual recordings cannot be returned. To meet data protection legislation, any centre requiring recordings must obtain written permission from all the candidates before the request is submitted. A pro-forma for such requests will be available at aqa.org.uk by results day.

Please note: Recordings will be returned to centres no later than the end of November each year. Recordings will not be returned before the end of the Post Results period (20 September) under any circumstances.

Costs for this service will be £20 per centre.

Media Studies (4810)

Unit 2 Clarification of the Marking Criteria Assignment 3, Construct and Evaluate (AO4)

There is now further guidance to assist centres in allocating marks for construct and evaluate. For a breakdown of mark allocation, please visit the *GCSE Media Studies Noticeboard* at aqa.org.uk

Unit 3 Clarification of the Assessment of the Quality of Written Communication

Although candidates will be reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in their answers, the quality of their written communication will only be assessed in Question 15. The following information will appear on the front of the question paper:

- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- In Question 15 you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use media terminology where appropriate.

In the body of the question paper/answer booklet, directly below the question, the following statement will appear in italics:

'To gain full marks in the question you should use good English, organise information clearly and use media terminology where appropriate.'

Physical Education (4890)

This specification has been revised following teacher feedback. The changes aim to clarify specification requirements for both students and teachers. A revised specification has been sent out to all centres and is available from the *Qualifications/GCSE/PE/Key materials* section of aqa.org.uk Changes made since version 2.0 of the specification have been side barred.

The amendments fall into the following categories:

1. Reorganisation/rewording which is intended to clarify the assessment criteria for particular activities
2. Amendments to the player/performer requirements for some Group 2 and Group 3 activities to make the core skill requirements more explicit.

The preliminary material (48901/3/PM and 48905/PM) was released on **Monday 10 January** and additional copies can be downloaded from *Secure Key Materials* on e-AQA.

General Certificate of Education

Accounting (1121) Advanced Subsidiary

ACCN1

For June series 2011 exams in the above paper, we will continue to provide extra space in the combined question paper/answer books. The extra lined pages at the back of the books can be used by candidates as extra space to answer questions.

The following rubric will appear under 'Instructions' on the front cover.

- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).

Classical Civilisation (2020)

CIV1B Athenian Democracy

From the January 2012 exam series, we will no longer be printing passages from the JM Moore translation, Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy, in question papers. This is because of problems obtaining permission to use these passages from the copyright holder. We will continue to use the Greek terms employed in this translation (eg Boule, strategoi) so students who have prepared for the exam using it will not be disadvantaged.

We will continue to print passages from PJ Rhodes: The Athenian Constitution and Robin Barrow: The Old Oligarch.

Computing (2510)

Changes to the electronic answer document for COMP1

From the 2011 exam, there will be a new statement for candidates on the cover of the electronic answer document. The revised wording under the heading '**Warning**' reads:

- 'It may not be possible to credit an answer if your:
 - details are not printed on every page as instructed above
 - Screen Captures are not legible to the examiner.'

Centres should ask candidates to practise making screen captures that are easily legible in terms of:

- the size of the capture
- the size of the font
- where appropriate, the use of colours.

Design and Technology: Food Technology (1541) Advanced Subsidiary

Food1

In the June 2011 exam series, we will continue to provide extra space in the combined question paper/answer books. The extra lined pages at the back of the books can be used by candidates as extra space to answer questions.

The following rubric will appear under 'Instructions' on the front cover.

- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).

Economics (2140)

Changes to rubrics for GCE Economics from June 2011

From June 2011, we are introducing some minor changes to the rubric instructions for **our AS and A2 Economics papers**.

These changes will *not* affect:

- **the format of the papers**
- **what candidates are being asked to complete.**

They are simple cosmetic changes which should enable candidates to cope better with the two-digit question paper numbering system.

AS Economics ECON1 and ECON2

Section B

The two optional questions will now be labelled **Context 1** and **Context 2** (instead of Question 26 and Question 27).

Candidates will still need to answer **either** Context 1 **or** Context 2.

Each context will still contain four part-questions, worth a total of 50 marks.

A2 Economics ECON3 and ECON4

Section A

The two optional questions will now be labelled **Context 1** and **Context 2** (instead of Question 1 and Question 2).

Candidates will still need to answer **either** Context 1 (The Global Context) **or** Context 2 (The European Union Context).

Each context will still contain three part-questions, worth a total of 40 marks.

Section B

The three optional questions will now be labelled **Essay 1**, **Essay 2** and **Essay 3** (instead of Question 3, Question 4 and Question 5).

Candidates will need to answer Essay 1 **or** Essay 2 **or** Essay 3.

Each essay will still comprise two part-questions, worth a total of 40 marks.

Revised specimen papers, reflecting these changes, have been published on the GCE Economics webpage.

French (2650)**German (2660)****Spanish (2695)****FRE2V, FRE4V, GER2V, GER4V, SPA2V, SPA4V**

From 2012 we can't allocate a Visiting Examiner to centres with **nine candidates or fewer**. Candidates can be counted across Units 2 and 4 for an individual language, eg seven Unit 2 candidates and three Unit 4 candidates will meet the requirement.

Centres with **nine candidates or fewer** across Units 2 and 4 should:

- refer to the *Host Centres Booklet* from the *Qualifications/A-level/Languages/Noticeboard* section of the A-level French, German and Spanish web pages. This contains a regional list of centres prepared to accommodate candidates from other centres. AQA will allocate a Visiting Examiner if the combined number of candidates to be tested at a host centre is 10 or more. To be listed as a host centre for the 2012 exams, please e-mail: **exammodhg@aqa.org.uk**
- use existing links and contacts with local centres to arrange for a combined entry of 10 or more candidates to be tested at a centre not listed in the *Host Centre Booklet*
- establish new contacts with other centres and make appropriate arrangements.

We can allocate a Visiting Examiner to any centre where 10 or more candidates are being tested, even if these candidates are entered by several different centres.

Units FRE2T/V, GER2T/V, SPA2T/V**Units FRE4T/V, GER4T/V, SPA4T/V****Breakdown of marks**

Once tapes/CDs/memory sticks are submitted for marking, they become the property of AQA. Centres can currently request a breakdown of marks for A-level French, German and Spanish. Any centre wishing to receive a breakdown of marks (STMS forms) should use e-AQA to request either:

- the Priority Access to Scripts service
- or
- the Scripts to Support Teaching and Learning Access to Scripts service.

These will cost £4.00 per candidate.

Return of recordings 2011

From summer 2011, centres will be able to request the return of all their recordings.

The recordings and breakdown of marks will be returned for the full cohort – individual recordings cannot be returned. To meet data protection legislation, any centre requiring recordings to be returned must obtain written permission from all the candidates before the request is submitted. A pro-forma for these requests will be available at aqa.org.uk by results day.

Recordings will be returned to centres no later than the end of November each year. Recordings will not be returned before the end of the Post Results period (20 September) under any circumstances.

Costs for this service will be:

- £20 per centre for GCE Teacher conducted speaking tests
- £30 per centre for GCE Visiting Examiner conducted speaking tests.

Psychology (Specification A) (2181)

This specification has been revised for first teaching in September 2011 and for examination from January 2012. The changes have been informed by teacher feedback and aim to clarify specification requirements for both students and teachers. A revised version of the specification is available at aqa.org.uk (Specification 2012 onwards, Version 1.0).

The amendments fall into the following categories:

1. Reorganising/rewording which is intended to clarify content
2. Minor reductions in content to ensure comparability across topics
3. Amending references to specific skills to make the skill requirement more explicit
4. Changes to the mark allocations – on PSYA3 and PSYA4 (Sections A and B), each topic will now be worth eight AO1 marks and 16 AO2/3 marks, making the total for PSYA3: 72 marks and the total for PSYA4: 83 marks.

Psychology (Specification B) (1186)

PSYB1

For the June 2011 exam series, we will continue to provide extra space in the combined question paper/answer books. The extra lined pages at the back of the books can be used by candidates as extra space to answer questions.

The following rubric will appear under 'Instructions' on the front cover.

- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).

Other qualifications

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) Modern Foreign Languages

Candidate Record Forms for ELC MFL

There is an error on the 2011 ELC MFL Candidate Record Form (CRF) despatched to centres. You can still use this version but need to adjust the unit number on the reverse of the form. A corrected CRF (version 1.1) is available at aqa.org.uk - go to: *Qualifications/More/Entry Level Certificate (ELC)/Modern Foreign Languages/Noticeboard*.

Key Skills and Basic Skills

Basic Skills (8990)

Key Skills (9900) (KS2004)

Wider Key Skills (9970) (KS2004)

Final test/moderation opportunities for Key, Basic and Wider Key Skills

AQA Key Skills will finish by August 2011.

Wider Key Skills at Levels 1–4 and Key Skills at Levels 1, 2 and 3 only, will be available in the March and June 2011 series for the last time. There is no May test series for 2011 and Level 4 tests are no longer available.

There will be no further re-sits in any of the Key Skills subjects after June but certificates may be claimed up until June 2012. The certification codes are in the *Administration Handbook* for Key Skills, which is available from the *Qualifications/More/Basic Skills (BSK) and Key Skills (KS)/Which spec?* section of aqa.org.uk

Basic Skills (Adult Literacy at Levels 1 and 2) will continue until June 2012.

ICT tests Level Three and Four data files

The new set of data files for the 2011 test series is available at www.qcda.gov.uk Please make the new data files available to candidates in read-only format as early as possible in the course to help them develop practical skills in preparation for the tests. Candidates must not be given prior knowledge of which data files are to be used in any of the tests. This is to ensure their preparation is broadly based rather than focused on a particular context.

You should delete the data files you downloaded for 2009/10 from your network. Although they may appear to be the same as last year, new scenarios have been added and some deleted.
