

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* are two copies of a poster giving details of subject contributions for display in staff room areas.

### Applied Information and Communication Technology (Double Award) (3851)

#### Assessment Criteria

Centres should be aware that the Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3 Assessment Criteria provided in the specification are intended to be cumulative. To this end, the Assessment Criteria grid for each of these units has been revised to display the total number of marks available for the criterion, rather than the mark range.

This revision has been incorporated into the specification for 2006 and this may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Bengali (3636)  
 French A (3651)  
 French A (Short Course) (3657)  
 German A (3661)  
 German A (Short Course) (3667)  
 Italian (3631)  
 Panjabi (3681)  
 Spanish A (Short Course) (3697)  
 Urdu (3646)

#### Writing

Centres are advised that from **summer 2005 examinations onwards** the stimulus in the question paper for Foundation Writing Question 2 will be in English, and the questions will be in the target language. A sample question may be obtained on request from the subject department on 01483 840015.

#### Listening and Reading

Centres are advised that from **summer 2005 examinations onwards** all items in the Listening and Reading question papers which are tested through the medium of multiple-choice questions will have **three** choices for answers, and not **four** as at present.

## Subject Information

### GCSE Examinations

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**French B (Modular) (3652)**  
**German B (Modular) (3662)**  
**Spanish B (Modular) (3692)**

GCSE

### Listening and Reading

Centres are advised that from **January 2005 examinations onwards** all items in the Listening and Reading question papers which are tested through the medium of multiple-choice questions will have **three** choices for answers and not **four** as at present.

### Listening

Centres are advised that from **January 2005 examinations onwards** the recordings for the Listening Test will take the following format:

Question .... announcement .... text .... bleep .... pause

Question .... announcement .... text .... bleep .... pause

### Module 4 Writing: Foundation Tier Question 2 / Higher Tier Question 1 & Question 2

Centres are advised that from **summer 2005 examinations onwards** these questions will contain **six bullet points**. The bullet points will incorporate the opportunity for candidates to give opinions, descriptions, justification of ideas and respond in different time-frames. The assessment criteria and total marks available for this question will remain unchanged.

### Modules 1 & 3 Coursework

Centres are advised to read the *Report on the Examination January 2004*, which can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website, paying particular note to references to the Candidates' Notes Proforma.

[www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/french\\_b\\_exam.html](http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/french_b_exam.html)

[www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/german\\_b\\_exam.html](http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/german_b_exam.html)

[www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/spanish\\_b\\_exam.html](http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/spanish_b_exam.html)

In Module 3, centres should pay particular note to the requirements for this module i.e. candidates must complete **one Speaking task and two Writing tasks, taken from three different topic areas**.

Centres are also reminded that the Speaking task 'A Leisure Outing' is **not** a description of a holiday. It must refer to an outing of short duration (maximum two days). The topic of holidays is now covered in Module 2.

**General Studies (3761)****Paper 2**

Centres entering candidates for the Paper 2 option are advised that the topic area for the 2006 examination will be:

Preparing to meet Britain's future energy needs.

**Modern Hebrew (3676)**

**Polish (3686)**

**Russian (3641)**

**Writing**

Centres are advised that from **summer 2005 examinations onwards** the stimulus in the question paper for Question 2 will be in English, and the questions will be in the target language. A sample question may be obtained on request from the subject department on 01483 840015.

**Listening and Reading**

Centres are advised that from **summer 2005 examinations onwards** all items in the Listening and Reading question papers which are tested through the medium of multiple-choice questions will have **three** choices for answers, and not **four** as at present.

**Science: Double Award A (Modular) (3468)**

**Science: Single Award A (Modular) (3469)**

**Science: Double Award B (Co-ordinated) (3462)**

**Science: Single Award B (Co-ordinated) (3463)**

**Biology A (3413)**

**Biology B (3411)**

**Biology (Human) (3415)**

**Chemistry A (3423)**

**Chemistry B (3421)**

**Physics A (3453)**

**Physics B (3451)**

**Environmental Science (3441)**

**ELC Science B (3949)**

**2005 specification onwards: Carrying forward of coursework marks**

Candidates re-taking the examination may carry forward their moderated coursework marks. These marks have a shelf-life which is limited only by the shelf-life of the specification, and they may be carried forward an unlimited number of times within this shelf-life.

## Subject Information

### GCE Examinations

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**Biology A (5411) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Biology A (6411) Advanced**  
**Biology (Human) A (5413) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Biology (Human) A (6413) Advanced**

### Changes to AS/A2 Coursework Criteria

Centres are reminded that the coursework section of the specification has been revised and that these changes will be implemented from the June 2005 examination. All coursework submitted in June 2005, and subsequently, will have to have been marked (or re-marked if any candidates are carrying coursework forward) using the revised criteria. The revised specification is available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

A document written to accompany the revised coursework criteria, *Coursework Assessment – Guidance for Teachers*, is available to view and/or download from the *Coursework* section of the *Biology/ Biology (Human) A* area of the AQA Website.

**Computing (5511) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Computing (6511) Advanced**

Specification changes: Module 3 (Practical Systems Development): CPT3

**Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update*** is a leaflet outlining the details of the year-specific content for CPT3 (the scenario for the Practical Exercise) for the 2006 examination.

This information relates to pages 43 to 45 of the specification for 2006.

### Specification changes: Module 6 (The Practical Project): CPT6

Centres were advised in the February Issue 17 of the *AQA Examinations Update* that restructured coursework assessment criteria, replacing that given in the 2004 printed specification, had been produced for use in assessing coursework for the **2005** examination. These have been further improved, with the supplementary changes outlined below:

- a revision to the total marks available, from 60 to 65, with the additional marks being attributed to the Technical Solution and Appraisal criteria
- removal of the 4 000 word limit
- more detailed 'expected contents' that have been listed below the criteria for ease of reference.

Centres are advised that modified versions of the *Project Log Sheet* and *Candidate Record Form* have been produced to encompass these changes and should be used when submitting work for assessment in 2005. They can be viewed and/or downloaded from either the back of the published specification for 2005 (version 1.3) in the *Qualifications* section or within the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework Administration* section of the AQA Website.

English Language B (5706) Advanced Subsidiary  
English Language B (6706) Advanced

**ENB2**

The topic, **Language and Power**, will be replaced in **January 2006**. The replacement topic, **Language and Occupational Groups**, will be first examined in **January 2006**. Please see the 2006 specification for details which can be viewed and downloaded from the *Qualifications /Subjects* section of the AQA Website.

Please note, there will be a re-sit opportunity in January 2006 for candidates wishing to answer a question on Language and Power. This question will **only** be available for re-sit candidates.

**ENB5**

Beginning in January 2005 there will be a new policy regarding the distribution of pre-release material for ENB5. For the January 2005 examination, and all subsequent examinations, pre-release material will be available to candidates one week before the examination date.

In January 2005 the ENB5 examination is timetabled on Monday 24 January. This means that centres will be able to issue the pre-release material to candidates on **Monday 17 January**.

The new policy means that candidates will be guaranteed a week in which to prepare the material in addition to the previously guaranteed weekend period.

English Language and Literature A (5721) Advanced Subsidiary  
English Language and Literature A (6721) Advanced

**Set Texts for 2006**

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* is a further copy of the **set texts for 2006** for the English Department at your centre

The 2006 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

## Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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English Language and Literature B (5726) Advanced Subsidiary  
English Language and Literature B (6726) Advanced

### Set Texts for 2006

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* is a further copy of the **set texts for 2006** for the English Department at your centre.

The 2006 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

### NTB6

Beginning in January 2005 there will be a new policy regarding the distribution of pre-release material for NTB6. For the January 2005 examination, and all subsequent examinations, pre-release material will be available to candidates one week before the examination date.

In January 2005 the NTB6 examination is timetabled on Wednesday 26 January. This means that centres will be able to issue the pre-release material to candidates on **Wednesday 19 January**.

The new policy means that candidates will be guaranteed a week in which to prepare the material in addition to the previously guaranteed weekend period.

English Literature A (5741) Advanced Subsidiary  
English Literature A (6741) Advanced

### LTA6

The theme for the reading of this unit in 2006, 2007 and 2008 will continue to be War in Literature, with specific reference to literature written about and during **The First World War**.

### Set Texts for 2006

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* is a further copy of the **set texts for 2006** for the English Department at your centre.

The 2006 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**English Literature B (5746) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**English Literature B (6746) Advanced**

**LTB6**

Beginning in January 2005 there will be a new policy regarding the distribution of pre-release material for LTB6. For the January 2005 examination, and all subsequent examinations, pre-release material will be available to candidates one week before the examination date.

In January 2005 the LTB6 examination is timetabled on Monday 31 January. This means that centres will be able to issue the pre-release material to candidates on **Monday 24 January**.

The new policy means that candidates will be guaranteed a week in which to prepare the material in addition to the previously guaranteed weekend period.

**Set Texts for 2006**

**Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update*** is a further copy of the **set texts for 2006** for the English Department at your centre.

The 2006 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**French (5651) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**French (6651) Advanced**  
**German (5661) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**German (6661) Advanced**  
**Spanish (5696) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Spanish (6696) Advanced**

**Units: FR02, GR02, SP02**

As published in Issue 13 of *AQA Examinations Update (April 2003)*, candidates from **January 2005 onwards** will answer **two** questions, each of which will be equally weighted.

In Issue 15 of *AQA Examinations Update (September 2003)* centres were informed that each question would be marked out of 36; the total mark for the paper would be 72; the UMS total for the paper would remain 90.

## Subject Information

### GCE Examinations

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After further consultation with QCA, senior AQA staff and examiners, two additional amendments will take effect from **January 2005 examinations onwards**:

- the two questions will be equally weighted, **but each question will be marked out of 54, not 36**. The total mark for the paper will therefore be 108; the UMS total for the paper will remain 90
- in order to allow examiners to mark more positively and more consistently across the languages, the assessment criteria descriptors for Assessment Objective 2 (Reaction/Response) and Assessment Objective 4 (Content/Knowledge of Society) have been revised. The amendments clarify whether points made by candidates should be credited under AO2 or AO4. They also allow examiners to award positively for the knowledge that candidates have about the topic that is being tested if they do not produce an answer that is very well focussed on the actual question set. Centres are, however, reminded that such answers will not, of course, score the highest marks. In terms of how centres prepare candidates and how candidates actually answer the questions there are no changes.

**Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update*** are replacement specification pages showing the revised assessment criteria.

The 2005 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA website (please ensure that you download Version 1.1 as the previous 2005 version does not contain all the amendments).

#### **Units: FR6T, GR6T, SP6T**

Centres are advised that with effect from the **January 2005 examination series onwards**, the number of Reporting and Discussion cards for use in each **January** examination series will be reduced from **six** to **four**.

In each **June examination series six** cards will continue to be available.

#### **General Studies A (6761) Advanced**

You are reminded that in response to requests from teachers and examiners and after consultation with both these groups, AQA has made the following revisions to the format of the GA4F, GA4G, GA4S and GSA5 examination papers. The revisions will be implemented for **January 2005 and subsequent examinations**. They have been made in the interests of candidates but should have no significant impact on preparation for the examination.

### Units GA4F, GA4G, GA4S and GSA5

You are reminded that examiners and centres have reported that the demands of these A2 units are difficult for candidates to respond to in the time allocated. This is due largely to the amount of reading required for the modern foreign language and spatial and mechanical objective test questions. Therefore, the number of objective test questions will be reduced from 25 to 20 for both of these units and the total mark for each unit will be reduced from 50 to 45. The length of the examination, the nature of the questions and the coverage of assessment objectives will remain unchanged.

### General Studies B (5766) Advanced Subsidiary General Studies B (6766) Advanced

You are reminded that in response to requests from teachers and examiners and after consultation with both these groups, AQA has made the following revisions to the format of the GSB1 and GSB3 examination papers. The revisions will be implemented for **January 2005 and subsequent examinations**. They have been made in the interests of candidates but should have no significant impact on preparation for the examination.

#### GSB1: Conflict

You are reminded that the current format requires candidates to answer all five questions offered. In order to assist candidates in a more equitable use of their time and to recognise that even well prepared candidates will not have equal facility with all questions, it has been decided that the paper should be revised to **six questions**, from which candidates **must answer four**. The nature of the questions and the time available to complete the examination will remain unchanged. The maximum mark for each question will be increased from 12 to 15 to ensure the maximum unit mark remains at 60 and there will be consequent changes to the width of the mark bands in the marking scheme.

You are reminded that each of the first five questions will cover a different one of the five areas of study. The sixth question will be taken from each area of study on a random basis. Centres will not be informed of the area of study for the sixth question in advance of the examination.

#### GSB3: Space

You are reminded that the GSB3 examination paper currently consists of two compulsory questions, each with a number of sub-parts. It has been reported that even when candidates manage to produce responses to all questions, their answers often demonstrate lack of development or careful deliberation, due to a lack of time. In order to reduce the repetition of assessment of the same skills, the **GSB3** examination paper will be amended to a **single question**, with more parts (but with fewer overall) than previously. The duration of the examination, the nature of the questions, the number of marks available and the coverage of assessment objectives will not change. There is however the possibility that a maximum of one visual image may be included in the question paper in addition to the usual types of data (tables of statistics, graphs and diagrams). All centres registered with AQA for this specification have been sent a revised specimen paper and mark scheme, during spring 2004, to exemplify the revised format.

## Subject Information

### GCE Examinations

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#### GB4C: Conflict-Resolution

Centres entering candidates for the Unit 4 coursework option should note that, for the 2006 assessment series (January and June), candidates must choose ONE of the following tasks:

EITHER "We are all equal, but some are more equal than others."

Investigate the extent to which equality of opportunity can be achieved in practice.

OR Investigate the extent to which bias in the British press conflicts with the objectivity we expect of good journalism.

#### Mathematics A (6300)

#### Mathematics and Statistics B (6320)

Please note that both these specifications are being withdrawn. The last full series for these specifications will be June 2005. A re-sit opportunity for A2 units will be offered in January 2006. There will be no examinations for these specifications from June 2006 onwards.

New GCE Mathematics and GCE Statistics specifications are available to replace both the above specifications. These are available for first teaching from September 2004, with first examinations in January 2005.

**Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update*** is a FAQ sheet, giving administrative details concerning the new specifications, together with further details of the transition arrangements.

Copies of the new GCE Mathematics and GCE Statistics specifications and associated specimen material are available from the Publications Department.

Enquiries about the new specifications should be addressed to the GCE Mathematics subject department on 01483 477752 or by e-mail: [mathematics-gce@aqa.org.uk](mailto:mathematics-gce@aqa.org.uk)

#### Use of Mathematics (6351) Advanced Subsidiary

#### Free-Standing Mathematics Qualifications

(6981, 6982, 6983, 6984, 6985, 6986, 6987, 6988, 6990, 6991, 6992)

Following the publication of the Smith Report *Making Mathematics Count*, AQA wishes to find out how centres would like the above qualifications to be developed.

**Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update*** is a questionnaire addressed to the Head of Mathematics seeking centres' views.

Basic Skills (8990)  
Main Key Skills (8900)  
Wider Key Skills

### Basic Skills Literacy and Numeracy and DfES Section 96 approval

AQA is pleased to announce that the Adult Numeracy and Literacy Certificates at Levels 1 and 2 have now received DfES Section 96 approval for use by Key Stage 4 students; this compliments the existing approval for their use by 16 -19 learners and adults. Read more about this decision at the DfES Section 96 website ( [www.dfes.gov.uk/section96/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/section96/) ).

The change will be effective **from the May 2004** Basic and Key Skills testing session. Existing entries documentation and procedures continue to apply.

### Main Key Skills Specifications (Standards) from September 2004

From 1 September 2004, AQA will be offering the revised specifications (standards) for the Main Key Skills, Application of Number, Communication and Information Technology, levels 1-4.

Candidates currently registered for Key Skills (8900) have **until August 2006** to complete and certificate units. Candidates new to the Main Key Skills from September 2004 will be required to enter for the revised specifications (standards). These standards can be viewed at [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

### Wider Key Skills Specifications (Standards) from September 2004

From 1 September 2004, AQA will be offering the revised specifications (standards) for the Wider Key Skills, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Working with Others and Problem Solving, levels 1-4 as **pilot qualifications**.

Candidates currently registered for Wider Key Skills Units (KSWO, KSLP and KSPS) have **until August 2006** to complete and certificate units. Candidates new to Wider Key Skills from September 2004 will be required to enter for the revised specifications (standards). These standards can be viewed at [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

A programme of free meetings for teachers about the new standards and Wider Key Skills pilot is planned for June, July and September 2004. Further details have been circulated to centres.

As from September 2004, candidates for the revised Key Skills qualifications in Wales will be assessed through portfolio only. This will mean that no candidate in Wales will be required to take a Key Skills test as of September 2004. Further information about the regulatory bodies' *Transitional Strategy* for Welsh candidates already registered for Key Skills (8900) can be viewed from [www.accac.org.uk](http://www.accac.org.uk)

## Subject Information

### Key Skills

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### Proxies

The proxy list has been slightly revised with the addition of Applied GCSE ICT. Full details about proxies can be viewed at [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)

If your centre has any queries about Basic and Key Skills please contact the subject team **on** 0161 953 7588/7559 or **by e-mail:** [keyskills@aqc.org.uk](mailto:keyskills@aqc.org.uk)

### Adult Literacy

AQA is pleased to announce a new revised specification for Entry Level Certificate in Adult Literacy, which will be available from September 2004.

This new specification has the following features:

- QCA accredited and part of the National Qualifications Framework
- meets the Basic Skills Adult Standards for Literacy for candidates who are not yet ready for GCSE/Level 1 qualifications
- available at three levels, Entry 1, 2 and 3
- designed and approved to be available on-demand at any time of the year (subject to four weeks' notice and the usual minimum order)
- every candidate receives a Statement of Results and/or Certification acknowledging achievement
- allows for progression to GCSEs, Level 1/2, Foundation/Intermediate qualifications as well as to Basic Skills
- replaces the current Achievement Tests in Literacy.

The scheme of assessment comprises two papers at each level.

**Paper 1** Speaking and Listening has two parts and represents 40% of the total marks.

Part A Speaking to Communicate and Engaging in Discussion will be internally assessed. AQA will provide standardisation meetings to assist teachers with making these assessments.

Part B Listening and Responding will be externally assessed. Scenarios will be read out by a supervisor followed by a set of questions.

**Paper 2** Reading and Writing Paper represents 60% of the total marks.

Candidates must sit both papers 1 and 2 in order to be eligible for a result.

If you would like to receive further details please contact the On-demand Test section at AQA Guildford **on** 01483 556100, 556101, 477837 or 477843 or **by email**: [Ondemand2@aqa.org.uk](mailto:Ondemand2@aqa.org.uk)