

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)

You are advised that Unit 1 and Unit 2 marking grids, which have been produced to assist centres with their marking of the portfolio units, have been published on the AQA Website and can be downloaded from the *Qualifications/GCSE Applied/Information and Communication Technology (3851)/Portfolio work* section of the website. The marking grids are not intended as a replacement for the *Candidate Record Form*, which must still be completed for each candidate.

You are also advised that the *Record of Controlled Sessions* for Unit 3 has been published on the AQA Website and can be downloaded from the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework Administration* section of the website, alongside the previously published *Candidate Record Forms*.

Classical Civilisation (3021)

Teachers responsible for GCSE Classical Civilisation are reminded that candidates must write the title of the topic on which they have submitted coursework on the front page of their answer books for the written examinations. If the teacher responsible for GCSE Classical Civilisation is not in the examination room at the beginning of the examination, the invigilator should be provided with the title of the topic.

Please note that it is not necessary for candidates to write the complete title of their coursework topic; a shorter version may be used, e.g. **Homer** or **Roman Social Life**.

Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

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French B (Modular) (3652/4652)

German B (Modular) (3662/4652)

Spanish B (Modular) (3692/4652)

GCSE

You are reminded that the above specifications have been substantially revised in the light of teachers' comments. The new specifications will come into effect for teaching from September 2005. The grid below shows the availability of modules in the 2006 and 2007 examining series.

	Existing specifications (final session) (3652,3662,3692)	Revised specifications (4652, 4662, 4692)
January 2006	Module 1 Module 3	Module 1 (first session)
Summer 2006	Module 2 Module 4 Subject Awards	Module 2 (first session)
January 2007		Module 1 Module 3 (first session)
Summer 2007		Module 2 Module 4 (first session) Subject Awards (first session)

In order to reduce the potential for confusion between the existing and revised specifications, AQA will issue new entry codes as well as new codes for all associated documentation.

It is important to note that it will **not** be possible to use any of the modules from the existing specifications in Subject Awards for the revised specifications, due to changes in the assessment criteria.

Existing AQA modular centres should have received complimentary copies of the new specifications, Teachers' Guides and specimen papers and mark schemes. Any centres requiring additional copies should contact the AQA Publications Department. Further information on the revisions to the specifications can be obtained from the subject department **on** 0161 935 1334/1277/1300 or **by email:** mfl@aqa.org.uk

History A (Full Course) (3041)

History A (Short Course) (3046)

You are advised that the following *Coursework Exemplar Assignment* may now be requested from the subject department:

- China in the Twentieth Century.

If you require a copy of the assignment please contact the subject department **on** 0161 957 3861/3864/3865

Subject Information

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GCSE Examinations

GCSE

History B (Full Course) (3042)
History B (Short Course) (3047)

You are advised that the following *Coursework Exemplar Assignments* may now be requested from the subject department:

- Second World War in the Far East: Atomic Bomb
- Second World War: The Home Front
- The Belfast Blitz.

If you require a copy of any of the assignments please contact the subject department **on** 0161 957 3861/3864/3865

History C (3043)

You are advised that the following *Coursework Exemplar Assignment* may now be requested from the subject department:

- Changing British Society: Development of the Welfare State.

If you require a copy of the assignment please contact the subject department **on** 0161 957 3861/3864/3865.

Information and Communication Technology A (3521)
Information and Communication Technology A (Short Course) (3527)

Following a large number of candidates completing the incorrect combination of components relevant to their entry in summer 2004, you are reminded of the importance of ensuring that candidates are provided with the correct written paper and submit marks for the correct coursework component(s) appropriate to the entry made for this specification:

- candidates entered for a Full Course award should complete the Full Course written paper, at either Foundation or Higher tier, plus the AQA-set assignment and the coursework project
- candidates entered for a Short Course award should complete the Short Course written paper, at either Foundation or Higher tier, plus the AQA-set assignment.

It is essential that candidates complete the written paper at the tier identical to the entry made. In the event that a candidate does not complete the correct combination of components or has completed the written paper at the incorrect tier, you must inform AQA Candidate Services, Manchester, in writing, as soon as possible.

Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

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Media Studies (3571)

You are reminded that the Controlled Test topic for 2005 is **Television Advertising**.

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* is an example of the revised storyboard for this examination for the teacher in charge of the subject.

You are also reminded that the preliminary materials for these examinations may be issued on or after **25 April 2005** and no tier changes are permitted after this date. Scripts must be with the examiner designated for the correct tier (3571/F or 3571/H) no later than **31 May 2005**.

You are further reminded that the standard requirement for submission of moving image coursework is VHS. Centres who wish to submit materials in other formats should contact the subject department on 01483 477792 upon receipt of their moderator's details.

Performing Arts: Dance (3231)

You are advised that the focus study area for the written examination in 2005 will be **Costume** as detailed in paragraph 9.7 c of the specification. Further information may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/GCSE Performing Arts: Dance Noticeboard* section of the AQA Website.

Subject Information

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GCE Examinations

Classical Civilisation (5021) Advanced Subsidiary

CIV1 Greek and Roman History and Society, Topic 1 Athenian Democracy

You are advised that one of the prescribed texts for this option, *The Old Oligarch*, has been revised and reprinted by LACTORs. Details of the new edition are as follows:

The Old Oligarch: Pseudo-Xenophon's Constitution of the Athenians, second edition, translated by Robin Osborne, LACTORs, 2004, ISBN 0 903625 31 8.

In 2006 and 2007, passages from both editions of *The Old Oligarch* will be printed in the examination papers. From 2008 onwards, they will be printed from the 2004 edition only.

Chemistry (6821) Advanced Extension Award

You are advised that the total mark allocation for the above paper will be reduced from 160 marks to 120 marks. This change will be implemented from and including the examination in June 2005 and will have the effect of reducing the marks of each of the five questions. There is no change to the current style or format of the paper.

In addition to this change, and in accordance with the *Test Specification*, 3 marks will be allocated in Question 5 to the quality of written communication. The mark tariff for each question will therefore be as follows:

Question	Mark
1	10
2	30
3	30
4	30
5	20 (to include 3 marks for QWC)
Total	120

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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Dance (5231) Advanced Subsidiary Dance (6231) Advanced

You are advised that there will be some changes to the written examination papers DAN3 and DAN6 in the June 2005 and future series. Exemplar papers were distributed to centres in December 2004 and are available by contacting the subject department **by e-mail**: performingarts@aqa.org.uk

Details of set works up to and including 2007 are available from the *Qualifications/GCE Dance Noticeboard* section of the AQA Website and resources lists for some of the set works can be found from the *Guidance* section.

Environmental Science (5441) Advanced Subsidiary Environmental Science (6441) Advanced

You are advised that this specification has been revised for **first AS examination in 2006** and **first A2 examination in 2007**. In response to feedback from AQA centres the content of the AS modules has been reduced and some topics transferred to the A2 modules.

The revised specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/GCE/Environmental Science* section of the AQA Website. Candidates sitting the A2 examination in 2006 should follow the 2006 version 1.0 also published on the AQA Website.

Printed copies of the revised specification were despatched to all existing Environmental Science centres in February 2005.

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

You are advised that a revised version of the *Teachers' Guide* may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/Subject/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

General Studies A (6761) Advanced

In response to requests from teachers and after extensive consultation with centres, AQA has been developing a fourth objective test alternative for the first section of the Unit 4 examination.

It is planned that the new option will be based on *Themes in European Culture* and will be offered as an alternative to the existing *French*, *German* and *Spanish* options. If approved by QCA, candidates will be required to select one of the three foreign language alternatives **or** Themes in European Culture.

The development has been necessitated by revisions to the national curriculum for England which came into effect in September 2004 and made the study of a modern foreign language an entitlement rather than compulsory for all pupils at key stage 4.

It is hoped that the fourth alternative will be made available for the June 2006 and subsequent examinations.

If approval for the revision is received from QCA, all centres registered with AQA for this specification will be sent subject content for the new alternative, a specimen paper and teacher guidance materials to exemplify the revised format and to assist teachers in their preparation for the delivery of the new alternative.

Mathematics A (6300) Advanced

Mathematics and Statistics B (6320) Advanced

You are reminded that June 2005 is the final full examination series for the above specifications. There is a re-sit opportunity in January 2006 for A2 units only, including MAS1, MBP7, MBM6 and MBS8. **AS units** (MAME, MAP1, MAM1, MAD1, MBP1, MBP2, MBS1, MBM1 and MBD1) **will not be available**. You will be required to register your intention to make entries for specific units in these re-sits by 20 September 2005. **Only units advised to AQA by 20 September will be available for entry in the January 2006 series.**

You are also advised that there will be **no** GCE Mathematics examinations in November 2005.

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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Media Studies (5571) Advanced Subsidiary Media Studies (6571) Advanced

You are advised that the stimulus material for the June 2005 examination for Unit 1 (MED1) will be print based.

You are also advised that the stimulus materials for the June 2005 examination for Unit 6 (MED6) will be moving image based.

You are reminded that the standard requirement for submission of moving image coursework is VHS. Centres who wish to submit materials in other formats should contact the subject department on 01483 477792 upon receipt of their moderator's details.

You are also reminded that the revised mark scheme for coursework Unit 5: Independent Study (MED5) can be found on pages 48-49 of the 2005 specification, which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/GCE AS/A Media Studies* section of the AQA Website.

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examination Update* is a copy of the revised mark scheme for the teacher in charge of Media Studies.

Leisure and Tourism Foundation/Intermediate (7144/7644)

Leisure and Recreation (8144, 8147)

Travel and Tourism (8154/8157)

Externally Assessed Assignments June 2005

You are advised that these will be despatched to centres during March 2005 for issue to candidates on 1 April 2005 and will be published on the *subject noticeboards* section of the AQA Website during April 2005. You are reminded that this despatch is based on estimated entries that AQA has received from your centre. Please ensure that you have completed estimated entries for these assignments otherwise there may be a delay in receiving them.

Themes Information for Externally Assessed Assignments

Information on the 2006 themes for Externally Assessed Assignments will be published as an appendix to the 2006 specification during the summer term 2005.

Teachers are advised that this information will **only** be available from the 2006 specification on the AQA Website.

Subject Information

Key Skills

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Basic Skills 8990
Key Skills 8900 (KS2000)
Key Skills 9900 (KS2004)
Wider Key Skills 8970 (KS2000)
Wider Key Skills 9970 (KS2004)

KS2004 Commentaries

QCA have produced Commentaries on the Example Portfolios for Communication, Application of Number and Information and Communication Technology. The commentaries, which are available from the QCA Website (www.qca.org.uk) match the Example Portfolios to the KS2004 standards. You have already received a set of the Portfolios but should further copies be required, they are also available from the QCA Website.

AQA Administration Handbook and QCA guidance 2004

All centres offering Key Skills have been issued with the *AQA Administration Handbook and The key skills qualifications standards and guidance* (QCA/04/1272). It is important that all Key Skills tutors have access to **both** documents in order to offer the revised Key Skills 2004. Should further copies be required they may be accessed from the QCA Website. You are advised that there is an amendment to the *Candidate Record Form* in the *AQA Administration Handbook* which is shown in Version 1.1 available on the AQA Website.

The text which has been added to the *Candidate Record Form* is as follows:

As part of AQA's commitment to assist students, AQA may make your coursework available on a strictly anonymous basis to teachers, examining staff and students in paper form or electronically, through the internet or other means, for the purpose of indicating a typical mark or for other educational purposes. In the unlikely event that your coursework is made available for the purposes stated above, you may object to this at any time and we will remove the work on reasonable notice. If you have any concerns, please contact AQA **by e-mail**: crf@aqa.org.uk

Test guidance

QCA have published test guidance for Key Skills Levels 1 – 4 and Basic Skills Levels 1 – 2 on the *Basic and Key Skills Guidance* section of the QCA Website. This is a useful reference for the preparation of candidates for externally assessed tests.

Wider Key Skills

All centres entering for Wider Key Skills under the 2004 standards should have already signed as participants in the pilot of the Wider Key Skills as a qualification. If you intend to make entries but have not yet informed AQA, please contact the subject department **on** 0161 953 7588.

Logbooks

Please note that there have been minor changes to the logbooks, *Communication C3.2*. The top line states that image is required within this component. This has now been deleted since the inclusion of image is optional here. Components under Level 3 ICT will be correctly entitled Level 3 and not Level 4. The new version is shortly to go on the *Coursework* section of the AQA Website and will be referred to as version 1.2.

Candidates transferring from KS 2000 TO KS 2004

The Regulatory Authorities have issued a statement regarding the position concerning candidates who are transferring from KS 2000 to KS 2004. Please refer to page 39 of the *AQA Revised Key Skills Administration Handbook*, available from the *Key Skills* section of the AQA Website and already despatched to centres, for the complete statement.

Use of email in ICT Level 1 and 2

We have received queries about the new requirement to use email in ICT levels 1 and 2 and the issues this raises for candidates taking the key skills in prisons. As you probably know, prisoners often do not have access to the internet and so cannot send and receive emails. We are keen that centres should seek to deliver an appropriate learning experience and to that end we should be as flexible as we can, in order not to disadvantage this particular group of candidates. Where internet, intranet or peer networking facilities aren't available, **simulation** or even a **peer to peer** solution could be used.

Portfolio Advisers

If you have not received details of how to contact your Adviser please contact the subject department on 0161 953 7588.

Subject Information

Entry Level Certificate

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Information and Communication Technology (3952, 3953)

Centres are advised that a revised specification is to be introduced for first examination in 2007, replacing the current 3952 Specification A and 3953 Specification B Entry Level Certificates. The final year in which candidates can receive an award in the current specifications is 2006. A copy of the revised specification may be viewed/downloaded from the *Qualifications/ELC* section of the AQA Website.