

Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

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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.

Citizenship Studies (Short Course) (3107) GCSE

Coursework standardising meetings will be organised for the autumn term for centres intending to enter candidates for this examination for the first time in June 2006. Invitations will automatically be sent to new centres who have submitted estimated entries for 2006 as well as to centres previously entering candidates for this examination whose coursework marks were significantly adjusted in 2005.

If you intend to enter candidates in 2006 and have not submitted estimated entries you should contact the subject department **by e-mail**: social_sciences@aqa.org.uk to ensure that you receive an invitation to attend these meetings.

These half day meetings are free of charge and centres will be asked to return forms giving preferences for dates and locations.

French B (Modular) (4652)

German B (Modular) (4662)

Spanish B (Modular) (4692)

Coursework Comment Sheets: Module 1 Speaking

AQA regrets that an error has appeared in the version of the *GCSE MFL Comments Sheet: Module 1 Speaking* in the revised 2007 specification, circulated for the launch meetings in January 2005. This also applies to the complimentary copies of the specification available from the AQA Publications Department.

The comment:

Tape recording too short/long (maximum 4 minutes)

should read:

Tape recording too short/long (maximum 5 minutes).

The *Coursework Comments Sheet* in the website version of the specification is correct.

You are also advised that the *Coursework Comments Sheets* which are due to be despatched in the autumn term for commenting on Module 1 2006, do contain the correct wording as stated above.

General Studies (3761)**Paper 2**

Centres entering candidates for the Paper 2 option are advised that the topic area for the 2007 examination will be:

The impact of science on mankind.

German A (3661)

German A (Short Course) (3667)

German B (Modular) (3662)

German B (Modular) (Revised) 4662

German spelling reform

You are advised that there continues to be some confusion in German-speaking countries about the implementation of spelling reform. As a result, until further notice both old and new forms of German spelling will be accepted from candidates for GCSE, GCE AS/A Level and Advanced Extension Awards. Awarding bodies will, however, continue to use new spellings in question papers and in any support materials they publish, except in texts reproduced from sources where old spellings are used.

German B (Modular) 3662

German B (Modular) (Revised) 4662

Listening and Reading Tests

You are advised that with effect from the examinations in the summer series of 2006, the Listening and Reading Tests in GCSE German Specification B will no longer necessarily have an example for every question. Each new question **type**, e.g. multiple choice, will have an example to show candidates how they are expected to answer.

Law (3161)**Changes to the specification for 2007**

You are advised that there have been minor changes to the subject content to take account of changes in the law.

With regard to the coursework, from summer 2007 candidates will be required to submit **one** piece only of 2000-2500 words. The marking criteria have been amended accordingly and a revised *Candidate Record Form* can be found as Appendix B in the specification which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

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Leisure and Tourism (Double Award) 3841

Unit 3 Customer Service in Leisure and Tourism

You are advised that guidance on the submission of portfolio evidence for the above coursework unit may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/Applied GCSE/Leisure and Tourism/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

Media Studies (3571)

You are reminded that the Controlled Test for GCSE Media Studies must take place under the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) *Instructions for Conducting Examinations*.

One key implication of this is that if a candidate is unavailable to take the examination they cannot take it at a different time (unless there is a clash with another timetabled examination) or on a different date. More information can be found in the *JCQ Instructions for Conducting Examinations* document (Section 2.4) which states specifically that:

Timetable variations are not permitted where a timetabled examination clashes with work experience, a school function or closure, participation in sporting events below international level, or holidays.

You are reminded further that such a clash cannot be accepted as a factor for special consideration.

Section 13.4 of this document also gives guidance on how the attendance register must be completed for absent candidates. The only reason that candidates might be awarded a grade is if they miss a timetabled examination due to illness and, in that case, a medical certificate is required. This is explained in section 10.2.1 of the *JCQ Access Arrangements and Special Considerations* document.

You are reminded that **no** teaching is permitted after the date for release of the preliminary material (3571/FM and 3571/HM).

New centres for GCSE Media Studies should contact the subject department **on** 01483 477792 for details of coursework standardising meetings and of their coursework adviser.

You are advised that the teacher guidance document for the **2006** controlled test topic **Children's Comics** will be available to view and/or download from the *Media Studies Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

You are reminded that the Controlled Test topic for **2007** will be **The Music Press**

Performing Arts: Dance (3231)

The Set Work for the 2006 examination is *Front Line*. Details of this may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications/GCSE/Performing Arts: Dance/Noticeboard* section of the AQA Website. Notice of the *Focus Study Area* will be despatched to centres in the spring term.

Physics A (Modular) 3453**2006/7 Specification amendment**

You are advised that the following amendment has been made to the 2006 and 2007 specifications for Module 23 - Physics in Action, part 14.4 section of the content:

The third paragraph which starts:

To protect the transistor

The words **reverse-based** should read **reversed-biased**.

Revised 2006 and 2007 specifications are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Physics A (Modular) (3453)**Physics B (Co-ordinated) (3451)****2006/7 Specification amendment**

You are advised that the following amendment has been made to the 2006 and 2007 specifications in the **Waves and Radiation** or **Forces, Waves and Radiation** section of the content.

In the second part of this section, the sixth paragraph starts:

Radio waves.....

The second sentence should read:

Shorter wavelength radio waves in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Revised 2006 and 2007 specifications are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

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Applied Art and Design (8511) Advanced Subsidiary
Applied Art and Design (Double Award) (8513) Advanced Subsidiary
Applied Art and Design (8516) Advanced
Applied Art and Design (Double Award) (8519) Advanced

GCE

You are advised that marked coursework exemplars and commentaries for AS units may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Marked exemplars and commentaries for A2 units will be available to view and/or download from the AQA Website in January 2006.

A *Teachers' Guide* may also be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website and a printed copy may be ordered from AQA's Publications Department.

Teacher standardisation meetings for AS units will be held in the autumn term 2005. All centres that intend to enter candidates for the first AS Level examinations in 2006 **must** send a representative to one of these meetings. Further information may be obtained from the subject team **on** 01483 477775 or **by email:** art@aqa.org.uk

You are reminded that if you wish to enter candidates in January 2006 for Advanced Subsidiary Unit 3: *Working to a brief*, you should have made an *Estimate of Entry* in July 2005. If you have not done this, please contact AQA (Entries) Manchester as a matter of urgency since the *Teachers' Notes* and *Candidate Guidance* will be despatched during September 2005. *Estimated Entries* for Advanced Subsidiary units for June 2006 should be completed by 10 October 2005. The *Teachers' Notes* and *Candidate Guidance* for June 2006 Unit 3: *Working to a brief* and Unit 5: *Professional practice, communication and meaning*, will be despatched during January 2006.

To receive details of your allocated portfolio advisor and for further information about this new specification, please contact the subject team **on** 01483 477775 or **by email:** art@aqa.org.uk

Dance (5231) Advanced Subsidiary
Dance (6231) Advanced

You are reminded that details of set works up to and including 2007 may be viewed and/or downloaded 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.

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

You are reminded that the following text changes will come into effect from the **January 2007** examination.

Unit	Texts withdrawn after June 2006 with a re-sit in January 2007	Texts being introduced in January 2007
NTA5	<i>Othello</i> - William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i> - William Shakespeare Arden
	<i>The Alchemist</i> - George Farquhar	<i>Dr Faustus</i> - Christopher Marlowe New Mermaids

A re-sit opportunity will be available in **January 2007 only** on those texts being withdrawn in June 2006.

NTA5

As you will be aware, *King Lear* is being introduced onto this unit for examination from January 2006. The edition of this text recommended by AQA is the New Penguin edition due to it being widely available with a helpful introduction. However, in this edition the name of the character **Goneril** is spelt **Gonerill**. There is no clear reason why this is the case as other editions of *King Lear* spell this character's name with only one 'l'. AQA advises centres that when extracts of this text are printed in the NTA5 examination paper that the name Goneril will be printed with one 'l' rather than two as this is the recognised traditional spelling of the name. Centres are asked to please ensure that candidates are aware of this.

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

You are reminded that the following text changes will come into effect from the **January 2007** examination.

Unit	Texts withdrawn after June 2006 with a re-sit in January 2007	Texts being introduced in January 2007
NTB2	<i>The Pilgrims Progress</i> - John Bunyan and <i>The Power and the Glory</i> - Graham Greene	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Penguin Popular Classics and <i>The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency</i> - Alexander McCall Smith Abacus
NTB5	<i>The Country Wife</i> - William Wycherley	<i>The School for Scandal</i> - Richard Brinsley Sheridan

A re-sit opportunity will be available in **January 2007 only** on those texts being withdrawn in June 2006.

NTB2

You are reminded of two changes to NTB2 for **2006**:

- from January 2006 onwards there will be a slight development of the wording of bullet point four of the generic question on this unit. The current wording of the fourth bullet point is:

How far you think **each extract** reveals ideas, attitudes and values found in **each text as a whole**.

As of January 2006 the wording will read:

How far you think the ideas, attitudes and values in **each extract** are characteristic of those found in the **whole text**.

The intention behind this change is to expand and clarify the bullet point so as to make it more accessible to candidates.

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- from **June 2006 onwards** there will be a new layout to the question paper for NTB2. Whereas previously the question paper consisted of a generic question with four generic bullet points regardless of which set text pairing had been studied, from June 2006 onwards bullet points 2, 3 and 4 will remain the same regardless of which set text pairing has been studied but the first bullet point will be more specifically tailored to each text pairing. Candidates will be required to discuss:

the ideas in **each extract** and the ways in which they are presented, **including...** (discussion of a specified aspect which is specifically relevant to the text pairing in question).

Candidates will be presented with a list of the text pairings on pages 3 and 4 of the question paper in the order in which the pairs of extracts are printed throughout the paper, and each pairing will be followed by the bullet points printed underneath.

If you have any queries regarding the new layout for NTB2 please contact the subject department on 01483 556074.

NTB5

You are advised that **from June 2006 onwards** there will be a change to the layout of the NTB5 question paper for Question 2. Centres will be aware that the present layout is such that candidates are given Questions 2(a) and 2(b) on the same page which are then followed by Texts A and B for Question 2(a) and Texts C and D for Question 2(b). From June 2006 the layout will change so that Question 2(a) will be given first and followed by Texts A and B, and then Question 2(b) will be given and followed by Texts C and D. The intention behind this change is to ensure that if candidates choose to answer Question 2(b) on Texts C and D, that they will not then have to keep turning over multiple pages between the question page and the pages with the texts on, but instead will have the question more conveniently followed immediately by its relevant texts.

If you have any queries regarding the new layout for NTB5 please contact the GCE subject department on 01483 556074.

NTB6

You are reminded that as of this summer 2005's NTB6 examination and from hereon the number of texts included in the pre-release material for this unit will total between five and eight. The number of texts has been reduced because it is felt to be more beneficial to candidates to provide them with fewer texts to prepare more thoroughly in the preparation time that they are given of one week.

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

Set Texts for 2007

AQA apologises for an error that was reported in the AQA Examinations Update Issue 23. Please note that the following text changes will come into effect from the January 2007 examination and not the June 2006 examination as previously stated.

Unit	Current text (last examination in June 2006)	Replacement text (from January 2007)
LTA4	<i>Othello</i> - William Shakespeare	<i>Hamlet</i> - William Shakespeare
LTA4	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> - John Webster	<i>The White Devil</i> - John Webster
LA5W	<i>Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit</i> - Jeanette Winterson	<i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> - Ursula le Guin
LA5W	<i>The Color Purple</i> - Alice Walker	<i>Oryx and Crake</i> - Margaret Atwood

There will be a re-sit opportunity on the texts being withdrawn (last examination in June 2006) in **January 2007** for **re-sit candidates only**.

You are reminded that the 2007 specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

LTA3

You are advised that the recommended edition of *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller is the Penguin Classics edition which also contains *A View from the Bridge* (ISBN 0141183500).

LA5W

Contrary to previous indications, *Precious Bane* and *Cold Comfort Farm* are **not** being examined for the last time in June 2006. These texts will remain on the specification for a further year, and will be examined for the last time in June 2007, with a re-sit opportunity in January 2008.

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

Set Texts for 2007

AQA apologises for an error that was reported in the *AQA Examinations Update* Issue 23. Please note that the following text changes will come into effect from the **January 2007 examination** and not the June 2006 examination as previously stated.

Unit	Current text (last examination in June 2006)	Replacement text (from January 2007)
LTB1	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> - Emily Brontë	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> - Thomas Hardy
LTB5	<i>The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales</i> - Geoffrey Chaucer	<i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> - Geoffrey Chaucer
LTB5	<i>The Way of the World</i> - William Congreve	<i>The Winter's Tale</i> - William Shakespeare

There will be a re-sit opportunity on the texts being withdrawn (last examination in June 2006) in **January 2007** for **re-sit candidates only**.

You are reminded that the 2007 specification can be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

General Studies B (6766) Advanced

GB4C: Conflict-Resolution

If you are entering candidates for the Unit 4 coursework option please note that, for the 2007 assessment series (January and June), candidates must choose **one** of the following tasks:

Either: Investigate the extent to which the Trade Union movement is an anachronism in modern Britain

or: Investigate the conflicts inherent in classifying advertisements as an art form.

Geography A (5031) Advanced Subsidiary Geography A (6031) Advanced

You are reminded that you should be using the revised specifications for the 2006 examination series and please note the changes to the structure of the examination papers for GGA1 and GGA2 from the January 2006 examination onwards.

Teachers are also reminded that the pre-release themes for the GGA3 papers in January and June 2006 are available to view and/or download in the specification from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Geography B (5036) Advanced Subsidiary Geography B (6036) Advanced

You are reminded that you should be using the revised specifications for the 2006 examination series and please note the change to the structure of the examination paper for GGB6 from the January 2006 examination onwards.

Teachers are also reminded that the pre-release topics for the GGA7 papers in January and June 2006 are available to view and/or download in the specification from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

German (5661) Advanced Subsidiary German (6661) Advanced

German spelling reform

You are advised that there continues to be some confusion in German-speaking countries about the implementation of spelling reform. As a result, until further notice both old and new forms of German spelling will be accepted from candidates for GCSE, GCE AS/A Level and Advanced Extension Awards. Awarding bodies will, however, continue to use new spellings in question papers and in any support materials they publish, except in texts reproduced from sources where old spellings are used.

Unit 5W

AQA apologises for an error that occurred in *AQA Examinations Update* June Issue 23 on page 24, where the title of the following text was incorrect. The correct title is:

Bertolt Brecht: *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*

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GCE Examinations

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Government and Politics (5151) Advanced Subsidiary Government and Politics (6151) Advanced

You are reminded that the Government and Politics units **GOV5**, **GOV6**, **GOV7** and **GOV8**, as stated in *AQA Examinations Update* June Issue 23, are no longer available in the January examination series. Please note that these units will continue to be offered in the June examination series.

Latin (5671) Advanced Subsidiary Latin (6671) Advanced

You are advised that questions on the set texts and topics which were to be examined for the last time in June 2005 will be available to all candidates in the June 2006 examination. This is in addition to those published in the 2006 Set Texts leaflet and in the 2006 specification available on the AQA Website. The texts and topics which are affected are:

- LAT3, Virgil, *Aeneid II*
- LAT 5, Pliny, *Fifty Letters of Pliny*
- LAT 6, Cicero on the Attack.

Further details of all set texts and topics are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website or by contacting the subject team on 0161 958 3823.

Law (6161) Advanced

LAW4 and LAW5, January 2006 Examinations onwards

You are advised that, following discussions with teachers, AQA has decided to make some amendments to the part (c) questions on LAW4 and LAW5. It would appear that candidates for these units often choose the **problem** they will respond to on the basis of the part (c) question rather than their understanding of the facts of the scenario.

Therefore, from January 2006 onwards, where it is considered appropriate, the part (c) question will be the same for both **problems** on a particular option, allowing candidates to make their selection based on the facts of the scenario, rather than their preference for one or other evaluative question. Furthermore, where appropriate, there will be more choice within the part (c) questions.

Leisure Studies (8641) Advanced Subsidiary
 Leisure Studies (Double Award) (8643) Advanced Subsidiary
 Leisure Studies (8646) Advanced
 Leisure Studies (Double Award) (8649)

Specification in Welsh

Welsh Language versions of this specification and the sample assessment materials and mark schemes are available on request from the subject department on 01483 477867.

Resources list

A list of resources for this specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualification/ Applied GCE/Leisure Studies/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

Support for teachers of the new specification

Portfolio standardisation meetings will be held in the autumn term 2005. All centres that intend to enter candidates for the first AS Level examinations in 2006 **must** send a representative to one of the portfolio standardisation meetings for the AS units.

Optional meetings aimed at supporting the examined elements of the specification will also be held in the autumn term, in conjunction with the portfolio standardisation meetings.

Further information may be obtained from the *Events/Support* section of the AQA Website.

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

New centres for GCE Media Studies should contact the subject department on 01483 477792 for details of coursework standardising meetings and of their coursework adviser.

Philosophy (5171) Advanced Subsidiary
 Philosophy (6171) Advanced

Synoptic Unit (PLY6)

You are reminded that titles for the 2006 and 2007 PLY6 unit are available in the 2006 and 2007 specifications which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. You are also advised that Section 15 of the specification contains all the information on PLY6. It is recommended that subject teachers and Examinations Officers familiarise themselves with these pages.

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GCE Examinations

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You are reminded to inform candidates that the rough notes used when preparing the synoptic essay must not exceed **1000 words in length**. These notes must be attached with the essay and will be taken into consideration by the examiners. It is not acceptable to use coded symbols in these notes. Candidates should also be reminded that any quotations used in the notes will form part of the word count.

You are also reminded that the deadline for submission of the essays and notes to the allocated external examiner is **15 May**.

The twelve acceptable titles for the **2006** examination are:

Alternative A: Comparative Study

- a. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions Aristotle and Descartes make to our notion of a person.
- b. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions of Plato and Hume concerning the nature and scope of human understanding.
- c. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions Descartes and Sartre make to our understanding of self-knowledge.
- d. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions Marx & Engels and Sartre make to the possibility of a social science.
- e. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions Nietzsche and Mill make to our understanding of political and social tyranny.
- f. Compare and contrast the philosophical contributions Aristotle and Hume make to our understanding of explanation and justification.

Alternative B: Complementary Study

- g. Assess Ayer's contribution to the philosophical understanding of evaluative discourse.
- h. Assess Russell's contribution to the philosophical understanding of perception.
- i. Assess Mill's contribution to the philosophical understanding of the value of individuality.
- j. Assess Marx & Engels' contribution to the philosophical understanding of religion.
- k. Assess Nietzsche's contribution to the philosophical understanding of truth.
- l. Assess Plato's contribution to the philosophical understanding of the nature and value of justice.

The twelve acceptable titles for the **2007** examination are:

Alternative A: Comparative Study

- a. Compare and contrast Plato and Ayer on the nature of ethics.
- b. Compare and contrast Descartes and Hume on the philosophy of the mind.
- c. Compare and contrast Aristotle and Sartre on human nature.
- d. Compare and contrast Nietzsche and Aristotle on virtue.
- e. Compare and contrast Mill and Marx & Engels on the role of law.
- f. Compare and contrast Descartes and Ayer on a priori knowledge.

Alternative B: Complementary Study

- g. Assess Russell's contribution to the problem of induction.
- h. Assess Hume's contribution to the philosophy of religion.
- i. Assess Marx & Engels' contribution to the philosophy of social science.
- j. Assess Plato's contribution to understanding the status of philosophers and philosophy.
- k. Assess Nietzsche's contribution to our understanding of the relationship between morality and religion.
- l. Assess Sartre's contribution to our understanding of 'freedom'.

You are reminded that *Candidate Record Forms* for the synoptic essay (PLY6) may be downloaded from the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework Administration* section of the AQA Website. If you do not have a copy of the PLY6 *Candidate Record Form*, please print one from the website. In the *Coursework Administration* section, choose the appropriate year, then *GCE (AS/A)* and then select *Philosophy* from the list of subjects.

Psychology A (5181) Advanced Subsidiary
Psychology A (6181) Advanced

Specification Changes to the 2006 Specification

You are reminded that a number of minor changes have been made to the 2006 specification. Written notification of these changes was provided to centres in autumn 2004. The 2006 specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Vertical lines indicate where a change from the 2005 specification has been made.

Minor change to the Instructions section on the AS/A2 question papers from January 2006 onwards

You are also advised of a minor change to the wording of questions, in the AS and A2 question papers, where the term **research** appears. In previous question papers, where the term **research** appeared in a question, the words **theories and/or studies** were placed inside brackets within the question. From January 2006, this wording will no longer appear in brackets within the question and instead the following wording will be added to the Instructions section on the front page of the AS and A2 question papers and to the relevant section headings:

Where the term **research** appears in a question, you may refer to theories and/or studies as appropriate.

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PYA5: Change to the instructions for Section C Perspectives: Approaches from January 2006 onwards

From January 2006, the following wording will be added to the instructions for Section C Perspectives: Approaches:

In your answer to the question, you should clearly identify which approach you have used in each part of the question.

Social Science: Citizenship (5101) Advanced Subsidiary

You are reminded that the Social Science: Citizenship unit **SSC2**, as stated in *AQA Examinations Update* June Issue 23, is no longer available in the January examination series.

Please note that this unit will continue to be offered in the June examination series.

Spanish (5696) Advanced Subsidiary Spanish (6696) Advanced

Unit 5 W

AQA apologises if the misalignment of the text listed in *AQA Examinations Update* June Issue 23 page 24 caused any concern. The corrected title should read:

Garcia Lorca F: *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*

Travel and Tourism (8651) Advanced Subsidiary Travel and Tourism (Double Award) (8653) Advanced Subsidiary Travel and Tourism (8656) Advanced Travel and Tourism (8659) Advanced

Resources list

A list of resources for this specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualification/Applied GCE/Travel and Tourism/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

Support for Teachers of the New Specification

Portfolio standardisation meetings will be held in the autumn term 2005. All centres that intend to enter candidates for the first AS Level examinations in 2006 **must** send a representative to one of the portfolio standardisation meetings for the AS units.

Optional meetings aimed at supporting the examined elements of the specification will also be held in the autumn term, in conjunction with the portfolio standardisation meetings.

Further information may be obtained from the *Events/Support* section of the AQA Website.

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GNVQ and VCE Examinations

Leisure and Tourism (7144/7644)
Leisure and Recreation (8144, 8147)
Travel and Tourism (8154/8157)

Externally Assessed Assignments

Teachers are advised that the rules for opening the *Teachers' Notes* supplied for each assignment in a series have changed, and that they should refer to the dates on the question packet labels.

Subject Information

Key Skills

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

AQA Administration Handbook

You are advised that the current *AQA Administration Handbook 2004/5* remains valid and should be used in the 2005/6 academic year. However, the timetable found in Appendix A is no longer valid and the confirmed 2005/6 is available to view and/or download from the *Administration/Timetable* section of the AQA Website.

Portfolio entries for the 2000 Specification and the 2004 Standards

You are also advised to check all entries that are made for portfolios. Several centres making entries for the June 2005 series have made entries under the KS2000 (KS*P) specification but the candidates have been working towards the KS2004 standards (YS*P). We ask that all future entries for portfolios are checked with the person teaching the candidates, before submission, to prevent any problems.

Key Skills ICT level three tests

An issue has been raised in regards to the wording used for the Key Skills ICT tests and possible confusion when using certain software. We would like to remind centres that the papers use generic ICT terminology so as not to refer to specific software or systems.

Subject Information

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Entry Level Certificate

English A (3970)**English B (3971)****English (4970)**

You are reminded that the new specification for 2007 (4970) is currently being despatched to all AQA registered ELC English and GCSE English centres.

Teachers wishing to attend a Teacher Support meeting to gain further information about the new specification should contact AQA's Teacher Support department on 01483 477 860 or book online via the *Events/Support* section of the AQA Website.

Specification A (3970) and Specification B (3971) will be awarded for the last time in 2006. Centres may still undertake a one year course starting in September 2005.

For those teaching the new specification, for an award in 2007, they may undertake a two year course beginning in September 2005 or a one year course starting in September 2006.

French A (3964)**French B (3965)****German (3966)****Spanish (3969)**

You are advised that the above specifications will be awarded for the last time in summer 2006.

These Entry Level Courses are to be replaced with new revised unit based courses French (4964), German (4966) and Spanish (4969). These will be awarded for the first time in summer 2007. Those centres following a two year course should start teaching the new course in September 2005.

Geography A (3902)

Please note that the final examination for this specification will be in summer 2006.

Centres should also note the following:

- the use of Set 6 of the Externally-Set Assignments for the compulsory Units 2 and 7 has been extended to 31 May 2006
- there will not be a Set 9 of the Externally-Set Assignments
- for the 2006 examination centres may submit completed assignments from Set 6 or Set 7 or Set 8.

Subject Information

Entry Level Certificate

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Geography B (3903)

Please note that the final examination for this specification will be in summer 2006.

Geography (Revised Rationalised) (4902)

AQA has revised and rationalised its Entry Level Specifications A and B into a single Specification for first examination in 2007. Copies of the revised specification are being despatched to all AQA centres that currently have candidates entered for ELC and GCSE Geography. The new specification is portfolio based, with assessment comprising 50% Externally-Set Assignments and 50% Teacher-Devised Assignments.

Mathematics (4930)

You are advised that a single revised Entry Level Specification is to be introduced for first certification in 2007, replacing the current specifications; Mathematics A (3930) and Mathematics B (3931). The final year in which candidates can receive an award in the current specifications is 2006. The revised specification is available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications/ELC/Mathematics* section of the AQA Website.

Further details have been sent to centres in a separate letter. If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the subject team **on** 0161 957 3852 or **by e-mail**: mathematics-gcse@aqa.org.uk

Science: A (3948)

2006/7 Specification amendment

You are advised that the following amendment has been made to the 2006 and 2007 specifications in the **Assessment Criteria** section of the content.

In section 24.1, the first paragraph starts:

Teachers are required as a whole

This has now been deleted.

Revised 2006 and 2007 specifications are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Subject Information

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Other AQA Examinations and Tests for Special Purposes

Free-Standing Mathematics Qualifications (6981– 6983) Foundation
Free-Standing Mathematics Qualifications (6984– 6988) Intermediate
Free-Standing Mathematics Qualifications (6990– 6992) Advanced

AQA regrets that some of the information regarding the FSMQs at Intermediate Level in *AQA Examinations Update* September Issue 23 may have resulted in confusion. The correct situation is that FSMQs will continue to be available at all levels in 2007, but the following Intermediate FSMQs are being withdrawn after 2006:

- Solving Problems in Shape and Space (6985)
- Making Connections in Mathematics (6987)

These two FSMQs will be available for the last time in summer 2006.

From summer 2007 AQA plans to introduce a new Advanced FSMQ in Using and Applying Decision Mathematics. This qualification will also be an alternative to Using and Applying Statistics (6990) and Modelling Calculus (6992) in AS Use of Mathematics. Further details will be published in September 2006, when AQA expects the changes to have been fully approved by QCA and the new FSMQ to be formally accredited.