

Subject Information

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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.

Additional Applied Science (4863)

First availability of coursework assessment

You are advised that there has been a change in availability of coursework units for assessment in January 2008: AASC3 (Unit 3) will not be available in January 2008. The first availability for this unit will therefore be June 2008. Unit 1 (AASC1) will be available in both January and June 2008.

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

You are advised that revised Unit 3 assessment materials will be introduced for first examination in January 2007.

To ensure centres are fully informed of the design of the new assessment materials, AQA has produced revised specimen assessment materials (version 3.0), which are available to read/download from the *Qualifications/GCSE Applied/Information and Communication Technology (3851)/Assessment Material* section of the AQA Website. A printed copy of this document was despatched to centres currently following this course in July.

You should also note that AQA has reconsidered the issue of assessment opportunities to allow candidates who submit work for Unit 3 in June of year 10 a facilitated re-sit opportunity in January of year 11. This will mean a change to the current arrangement of repeating the focus areas in the January and June examination series of the same year. Instead, the focus areas will be used for the first time in the June examination series and repeated in the January examination series of the following year.

For the first year of using the new assessment materials AQA will be assisting centres with the transition arrangements by offering the same focus areas in January and June 2007 and once again in January 2008.

You are reminded that the revised specimen assessment materials should be read in conjunction with the published *Specification* and *Specification Support Document* for 2007, both of which have been updated to reflect these changes and these may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Biology (4411)

Please refer to the entry under Science A and B on page 21.

Chemistry (4421)

Please refer to the entry under Science A and B on page 21.

Design and Technology: Systems and Control Technology (3546)

Changes to the specification for 2007 and onwards

You are advised that there have been **two** changes to the specification:

- a *Preparation Sheet* will be despatched to centres in January for issue to candidates at the beginning of March. This sheet is common to the foundation and higher tier papers. It will give advance notice of the design context for some questions on the paper
- the format of the question paper/answer book will change. Section A of the paper will contain compulsory questions which will test knowledge and understanding of the core materials, processes, components and electronic control regardless of the candidate's choice of focus technology (mechanisms or pneumatics).

Section B of the paper will contain one mechanisms question and one pneumatics question, and candidates must answer **one** of these questions, based upon their chosen area of study.

This will significantly reduce the number of pages in the question paper/answer book.

Other aspects of the specification (such as weighting of assessment objectives, specification content, number of marks and length of examination) will **not** change.

These changes have been detailed in the 2007 and 2008 specifications which may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Centres who have registered an *Estimate of Entry* for this subject will be sent specimen material in the autumn term.

Mathematics B (Modular) (4302)

Revised two-tier specification

You are advised that it will be possible to carry forward results from modules 1 to 4 of the present three tier specification into the above specification. This facility is unlikely to be required by the majority of candidates as those expecting to complete a qualification in June 2007 will continue with the three- tier specification (3302) while those commencing a two year course in September will

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begin the revised specification (4302). Two-tier modules will be available from November 2006 alongside three-tier modules. Centres should consider the year in which candidates expect to complete the qualification when making module entries.

Media Studies (3571)

You are reminded that the *Controlled Test* for GCSE Media Studies (3571/F and 3571/H) must be completed and the scripts sent to the examiner for each tier no later than 31 May.

Music (3271)

Unit 1 Composing

Unit 2 Performing

Unit 3 Integrated Assignment

For the June 2007 examinations you are advised that submissions for the above units may be recorded on Mini-Disc in addition to Tape Cassette and CD. Recordings should be made in MD mode **not** HD. DVDs are not acceptable. This information may also be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Physics (4451)

Please refer to the entry under Science A and B on page 21.

Science A (4461)

Science B (4462)

Biology (4411)

Chemistry (4421)

Physics (4451)

You are advised that materials for the *Investigative Skills Assignments* for the centre-assessed units of the above specifications are being despatched to centres on CD-ROM early in the autumn term. The CD-ROM is password protected. The password is being provided by separate letter. Both items are being despatched to all centres following the current AQA GCSE Sciences specifications.

If your centre has not followed AQA GCSE Sciences specifications previously, but is intending to do so for one of the above specifications, in order to ensure that your centre receives the materials, please contact the subject team **on** 01483 477758 or by **e-mail**: science-gcse@aqa.org.uk

**Science A**

You are advised that an estimated grade will be requested in due course for each candidate, for each unit entered eg Biology 1A (BLY1A). Estimated grades will not be requested for the GCSE Science A subject award 4461. This is in accord with inter-board practice for a modular subject where results are issued in each examination series. The information will assist AQA in judging where to set grade boundaries which has to be done for each unit separately.

You are also advised that the design of the objective test answer sheets for this specification will be slightly different to that used for the current GCSE Modular Science specifications. This is largely because one type of question has been discontinued. More detailed information, including a sample of the new sheet, will be made available to centres before the first tests in November 2006.

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Accounting (5121) Advanced Subsidiary Accounting (6121) Advanced

You are advised that although all companies listed on regulated European markets have been required to prepare their consolidated accounts in accordance with **International Accounting Standards** since January 2005, as far as the AQA GCE Accounting specification is concerned, the following will apply:

- questions will only be set on the application of standards to private limited companies, ie the application of existing UK standards.
- questions will not be set that require candidates to prepare or interpret accounts prepared under IAS 1.

Biology A (5411) Advanced Subsidiary Biology A (6411) Advanced

Re-allocation of coursework advisers

You are advised that it has become necessary to re-allocate some centres' coursework advisers. These centres coursework adviser was originally Ms M Baker. New coursework adviser contact details were despatched to centres affected from the subject team in June. If you are unsure if your coursework adviser has changed, please contact the subject team **on** 0161 957 3853.

You are reminded that your regional coursework adviser will be able to help you in the following ways:

- guidance on the selection of suitable topics for practical investigations
- advice on strategies for conducting investigations, sources of information, the amount of help that can be given to candidates, timing of investigations
- advice on interpreting the assessment criteria N.B coursework adviser should not be asked to mark the work of individual candidates
- advice on internal standardisation.

You are requested **not** to contact coursework advisers on the following matters:

- feedback on the moderation of coursework i.e. why particular mark adjustments have been made
- administrative procedures
- specification content.

You are also respectfully asked **not** to make contact at unsociable hours.

Please note that this service is **not** available to candidates.

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

You are advised that the following text changes will come into effect from the January 2008 examination:

Unit	Texts coming off in June 2007 with a re-sit in January 2008	Texts being introduced in January 2008
NTB5	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> William Shakespeare	<i>The Rover</i> Aphra Behn

You are advised that when a text comes off a specification after a summer sitting, there will always be **one re-sit opportunity** the following January. Texts coming off in June 2007 will therefore have **one re-sit opportunity** in **January 2008**.

NTB5

You are also advised that from January 2007, the wording of Question 1 of the question paper will change slightly. The current wording reads:

Discuss the ways in which these two passages reveal the playwright's skills in **producing** specific dramatic effects.

The new wording as of **January 2007** will read:

Discuss the ways in which these two passages reveal the playwright's skills in **creating** specific dramatic effects.

It is hoped that centres and candidates will find this change of wording helpful.

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English Literature A (6741) Advanced

Set Texts for 2008

Please note that the following text changes will come into effect from the **January 2008 examination**.

Unit	Current text (last examination in June 2007)	Replacement text (from January 2008)
LTA4	<i>The Prelude</i> (1805) Books 9 and 10 – William Wordsworth	<i>Lyrical Ballads</i> – William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge
LTA4	<i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> – William Blake	<i>Ode to the West Wind and Other Poems</i> – Percy Bysshe Shelley (also known as <i>Selected Poems</i>)
LTA4		<i>Selected Poems</i> – John Clare
LA5W	<i>Precious Bane</i> – Mary Webb	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> – Mark Twain
LA5W	<i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> – Stella Gibbons	<i>Northern Lights</i> – Philip Pullman

There will be a re-sit opportunity on the texts being withdrawn (last examination in June 2007) in **January 2008** for **re-sit candidates only**.

You are reminded that the 2008 specification may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

LTA4

You are advised that the recommended edition of *Ode to the West Wind and Other Poems* by Percy Bysshe Shelley is the Dover Thrift Edition and may also be known as *Selected Poems* (ISBN 0486275582).

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

Set Texts for 2008

Please note that the following text changes will come into effect from the **January 2008 examination**.

Unit	Current text (last examination in June 2007)	Replacement text (from January 2008)
LTB5	<i>Selected Poems</i> – Alfred Lord Tennyson	<i>Selected Poems</i> – Alfred Lord Tennyson (please see 2008 specification for new selection)
LTB5	<i>Edward II</i> – Christopher Marlowe	<i>Volpone</i> – Ben Jonson

There will be a re-sit opportunity on the texts being withdrawn (last examination in June 2007) in **January 2008** for **re-sit candidates only**.

You are reminded that the 2008 specification may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

LTB1

Contrary to previous indications, *The Color Purple* is **not** being examined for the last time in June 2007. This text will remain on the specification for the remaining life of the specification.

LTB2

Also contrary to previous indications, *Selected Poems* by John Donne, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* by William Blake and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller are **not** being examined for the last time in June 2007. These texts will remain on the specification for the remaining life of the specification.

European Studies (5051) Advanced Subsidiary

You are reminded that the Advanced Subsidiary GCE in European Studies was assessed for the last time in **summer 2006**.

AQA will be offering a final re-sit examination opportunity for the following externally assessed unit in the **January 2007** examination series. Only those externally assessed units for which there is a demand will be offered.

- EUR1 European Studies

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If you wish to enter candidates for the above re-sit examination in the January series, please see paragraph 1.3 of the General Examinations Administration section of *AQA Examination Update 27* for the details of the submission of initial entry information.

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

You are reminded that the pre-release themes for GGA3 and the pre-release topics for GGA7 in January and June 2007 are available from the specification which may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Law (5161) Advanced Subsidiary Law (6161) Advanced

Deception offences and the Fraud Bill 2005/2006

You are advised that if the current Fraud Bill is enacted as the Fraud Act 2006, then problem questions in Unit 5 raising issues of deception offences in the Criminal Law questions may be treated as follows:

- **January 2007**

Candidates may answer questions (a) and/or (b) either on the basis of the offences contained in the Theft Acts 1968 and 1978 or on the basis of the offences contained in the Fraud Act 2006. This applies solely to the deception/fraud offences and not to any other relevant property offences. However, candidates should not attempt to answer questions by reference to both the 'old' and the 'new' law.

In answering the evaluative question (c), candidates may make whatever use appears appropriate of the 'old' and the 'new' law.

Note: this advice applies even if, though enacted, the Fraud Act 2006 has not been brought into force by the date of the January 2007 examinations.

- **June 2007**

The advice given in respect of January 2007 will continue to apply to June 2007.

Note: in the event that the Fraud Act 2006, though enacted, has not been brought into force by the date of the January 2007 examinations, further advice will be issued about the June 2007 examinations.

- **January 2008 and thereafter**

Candidates will be required to answer questions on the basis of the Fraud Act 2006 if it has been brought into force.

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

2006/7 specification

You are advised that the following amendments have been made to the 2006/2007 specification:

- section 12.4 Assessment Criteria Unit 3 – Getting it Right in the Leisure Industry

The revised wording for AO2 Mark Band 2 is as follows:

Clear description of key quality control and management systems applied to the chosen leisure organisation. Begins to show how these are used to maintain standards.

- section 14.4 Assessment Criteria Unit 5 – Lifestyles and Life Stages

The revised wording for AO3 is as follows:

the implications of changing lifestyles and the age structure

replaces

the implications of the current health status

in all AO3 Mark Bands.

2006/7 Teachers' Guide

You are advised that a related amendment has been made to the 2006/2007 Teachers' Guide:

- section 6.5 Unit 3: Getting it Right in the Leisure Industry

The following text has been added to the end of the second paragraph:

Centres should make sure, when choosing an organisation on which to focus, that the

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systems and marketing used by that organisation will provide sufficient detail to address AOs 2, 3 and 4. Poor choices will prevent candidates from accessing the full range of marks available.

[Music \(5271\) Advanced Subsidiary](#)
[Music \(6271\) Advanced](#)

Unit 2 Composing

Unit 3 Ensemble and Realisation

Unit 5 Investigation, Report and Composition

For the June 2007 examinations you are advised that submissions for the above units may be recorded on Mini-Disc in addition to Tape Cassette and CD. Recordings should be made in MD mode **not** HD. DVDs are not acceptable. This information may also be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

[Travel and Tourism \(8651\) Advanced Subsidiary](#)
[Travel and Tourism \(Double Award\) \(8653\) Advanced Subsidiary](#)
[Travel and Tourism \(8656\) Advanced](#)
[Travel and Tourism \(Double Award\) \(8659\) Advanced](#)

2006/7 Specification

You are advised that the following amendments have been made to the 2006/7 specification:

- section 20 A2 Unit 11 – Impacts of Tourism

References to heritage sites have been added in Section 20.1 and in 20.2 under the heading **Impacts on tourism planning**. All instances have been side-barred.

- section 21.3 A2 Unit 12 – Business Operations in Travel and Tourism

The revised wording for the first sentence of Key Area 5 – Electronic Transactions is as follows:

Electronic transaction systems (e-commerce) are at the heart of the modern travel and tourism industry.

- Appendix C.1 Map of Europe to accompany Unit 3 – Travel Destinations

This map has been revised to further clarify the areas applicable to the specification.

**2006/7 Teachers' Guide**

You are advised that the following addition has been made to the 2006/2007 Teachers' Guide:

- Section 6.11 Delivery notes – Unit 9: People and Quality

The text below has been inserted between the last two paragraphs on the first page of the section.

The teacher has the responsibility of ensuring that candidates select appropriate travel and tourism organisations on which to base the tasks in the assignment. – These organisations should fit into the travel and tourism sectors outlined in Unit 1 (see pages 33–34 of the specification). – Candidates whose answers do not relate to a travel and tourism organisation will not be able to access the full range of marks available. In any specific cases of doubt, centres should consult with the Subject Department before they approve a candidate's choice.

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Key Skills

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Basic Skills (8990)
Key Skills (9900) (KS2004)
Wider Key Skills (9970) (KS2004)

AQA Administration Handbook

You are advised that updated copies of the *Key Skills and Wider Key Skills Administration Handbook* dated **2007 onwards** is available to read/download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Basic Skills specification

You are advised that there is now an updated version of the Basic Skills specification for teaching from 2007 onwards which is available from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Please note that there are no significant changes to the specification.

New proxy qualifications

Each year, QCA updates the list of proxy qualification which may be used to exempt candidates from Key Skills tests. Centres may obtain the full list of proxies for 2006/7 from the QCA Website (www.qca.org.uk) as from September 2006.

ICT tests level three and four

You are advised that a new set of data files for 2006/7 will appear on the QCA Website in September. **You should delete the data files you downloaded for 2005/6 from your network as although the data files may be the same as last year, new scenarios have been added and some deleted.**

The new data files may be made available to candidates in read-only form as early as possible in the course to help candidates develop practical skills in preparation for the tests. You are reminded that candidates must not be given prior knowledge of which data files are to be used in any of the tests. This is to ensure that their preparation is broadly based rather than focused on a particular context.

Design and Technology (3941-43, 3945-47)

Withdrawal of specifications in 2007

You are advised that the specifications listed below are being withdrawn following final certification in 2007:

Design and Technology: Electronic Products (3941)
 Design and Technology: Food Technology (3942)
 Design and Technology: Graphic Products (3943)
 Design and Technology: Resistant Materials (3945)
 Design and Technology: Systems and Control (3946)
 Design and Technology: Textiles Technology (3947)

They are replaced by the new single specification, ELC Design and Technology (4941-45, 4947) for two-year teaching courses commencing autumn 2006 with first award in summer 2008.

The following qualifications will be available:

Design and Technology: Electronic and Systems (4941)
 Design and Technology: Food Technology (4942)
 Design and Technology: Graphic Products (4943)
 Design and Technology: Product Design (4944)
 Design and Technology: Resistant Materials (4945)
 Design and Technology: Textiles Technology (4947)

The revised specification and guidance document are available to read/download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website, and copies were despatched to centres in July 2006.

Levels of Award

Three levels of award are available: Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, equivalent to National Curriculum Levels 1, 2 and 3.

AQA Unit Award Scheme

If your centre is registered for the AQA Unit Award Scheme candidates can receive credit for individual units.

Additional Information/Support

Teacher standardisation meetings for the operational examination will take place in the autumn term.

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Entry Level Certificate

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Further information is available from the subject team **on** 0161 953 7510 or **by e-mail:** dandt@aqa.org.uk or you may contact the subject team at the Manchester Office in writing.

Geography A (3902)

Geography B (3903)

You are reminded that the final examination for both these specifications was in summer 2006.

Geography Unit Award Scheme

Units from the withdrawn specification A (3902) can continue to be used within the Unit Award Scheme for the foreseeable future. However, they cannot be used towards an Entry Level Certificate after the 2006 award, which was the last year in which a full ELC qualification based on this specification was available. Please note that this facility is only available to centres which are specifically registered to use the Unit Award Scheme.

Geography (4902)

Revised rationalised specification

AQA has revised and rationalised its Entry Level specifications A and B into a single specification for first examination in 2007. Copies of the specification, *Teachers Guide* and *Specimen Assessment Materials* are available from the Publications department.

Teacher standardisation meetings for the 2007 entry will be arranged for the autumn term 2006. Invitations will be sent out late September/early October. You may contact the subject department **on** 01483 477774 in advance to register your interest in attending.

The 2008 version of the specification may be accessed from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Teachers must ensure that they use this version of the specification for candidates being taught for the 2008 examination series. In particular, they should note that the requirements with regard to the evidence to be offered for the Entry Level Certificate and the submission of the candidate portfolios has been clarified.



Level 1/ Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Working Life (3800)

You are advised that the Level 1/ Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Working Life (3800) will be awarded for the last time in summer 2007.

This course has been revised to include an element of coursework and a section on Enterprise. The new specification carries the same title but has the code (4800). The Certificate in Preparation for Working Life (4800) will be awarded for the first time in summer 2008.