

Business and Communication Systems (3126)

Despatch changes for practical examination

Please note that there will be two administrative changes for the Summer 2008 examination series:

The CD-ROM (3126/CD) of resources will now be distributed in the same package as the Teacher's Notes (3126/TN), both of which are to be despatched during early March.

The stationery folder (3126/SF) and plain paper (3126/PP) for the practical examinations (3126/2F and 3126/2H), will now be included as inserts in each question paper.

English Literature Specification B (3711)

From 2008 onwards clean examination copies of the poetry anthology *Best Words* will no longer be sent out automatically to centres entering candidates for specification 3711. If you require clean copies you should submit an order using the form which will be available on our website early in 2008. If you enter candidates for 3711 but do not use *Best Words*, please send us a NIL RETURN.

A separate form will be provided for new centres to order teaching copies of *Best Words*.

General Studies (3761)

Paper 2

If you are entering candidates for the Paper 2 option, please note that the topic area for the 2009 examination will be:

Family values today.

Media Studies (3571)

The dates and locations for coursework standardising meetings for new and regressed centres have been arranged and details are available to view from the *GCSE Media Studies Noticeboard* page of the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Please contact the subject department on 01483 477764 or **by e-mail**: mediastudies@aqa.org.uk if you require a booking form, stating your centre number and that you wish to attend a GCSE Media Studies coursework standardising meeting.

Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

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GCSE French B (Modular) (4652)

GCSE German B (Modular) (4662)

GCSE Spanish B (Modular) (4692)

GCSE

With effect from summer 2008, the Listening Tests for this specification will be provided on CDs. Although CDs will be the default medium, centres will be given the opportunity, until further notice, to request the Listening Tests on cassette tapes. Where CDs are used, the Foundation and Higher Tier tests will be provided on separate disks. Where a tape is requested, the Foundation Tier test will be recorded on side A and the Higher Tier test recorded on side B of the tape.

Science A 4461

Biology 4411

Chemistry 4421

Physics 4451

Structure of objective tests from November 2008

From November 2008, a change will be made to the structure of the objective tests which can contribute towards GCSE Science A, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The change affects only Foundation Tier tests.

The change is that tests will have one fewer matching question but one more multiple choice question to compensate. So the structure will become five matching questions followed by four multiple choice questions. The total raw mark will remain 36.

From November 2006 to June 2008, the tests have six matching questions followed by three multiple choice questions.

For further information contact the subject department on 01483 556208 or use our on-line enquiry service *Ask AQA*.

Accounting (6121) Advanced

In the January 2008 and subsequent examinations, AQA will no longer be issuing the special “Answer Book for Accounting” (with vertical lines). Instead, for A2 papers ACC5, ACC6 and ACC7, candidates will be instructed to write their answers in a standard 8-page answer booklet (without vertical lines). There is no change for AS Accounting papers ACC1 – ACC4: candidates will continue to write their answers in the combined question paper/answer booklet. Please note that ACC5 is the only A2 Accounting paper available in January 2008.

Applied Business Double Award (8613/8619)

Despatch changes for BS05

Please note that there will be an administrative change for the Summer 2008 examination series;

The stationery folder (BS05/SF) and plain paper for the practical part of the examination will now be included as inserts in each question paper.

General Studies B (6766) Advanced

GB4C: Conflict-Resolution

If you are entering candidates for the Unit 4 coursework option please note that for the January 2009 and June 2009 assessment series, candidates must choose **one** of the following tasks:

EITHER Investigate the extent to which science is the key to a better future.

OR Investigate the extent to which democracy can be achieved in practice.

N.B. AQA will offer GCE General Studies A2 units as a final re-sit opportunity in January 2010. The above tasks will therefore also be available for this series.

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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

A2 Portfolio Standardisation

Following the autumn series of meetings, two further 'catch-up' meetings on portfolio standardisation have been scheduled for the spring term. Attendance at one of these sessions is compulsory if your centre is entering candidates for portfolio units in summer 2008 and no-one from your centre has yet attended a portfolio standardisation meeting at the relevant AS/A2 level. The catch-up meetings will be held in London on Wednesday 6 February 2008 and in Cardiff on Monday 4 February 2008. For further details, contact the subject department **on** 01483 477867 or **e-mail** leisurerec-andtourism@aqa.org.uk.

Teacher Network Group

A Teacher Network Group has recently been set up to offer teachers of GCE Leisure Studies a means of contacting each other regarding subject matters. If you have not yet registered your details with us, please contact the subject department **on** 01483 477867 for an application form.

Philosophy (6171) Advanced

Synoptic Study: PLY6

AQA has published guidance for teachers on Unit PLY6 which can be downloaded from the *Guidance* section of the *Philosophy* pages within the *Qualifications* area of the AQA Website.

Information regarding the notes and titles for the 2008 and 2009 PLY6 units was provided in issue 31 of the *AQA Examinations Update* booklet, which may be read and/or downloaded from the *Administration/Library* section of the AQA Website. The titles are also listed in the 2008 and 2009 specifications, which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

The deadline for submission of the essays and notes to the allocated external examiner is **15 May 2008**.

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.



Physics A (6451) Advanced

January 2008 only

For PA02 only, the *Data Sheet* will no longer be provided as a perforated page. For this paper the sheet will now be provided as a loose insert to the paper.

For all other papers in January, the *Data Sheet* will remain as a perforated page for candidates to remove should they wish.

June 2008 onwards

The *Data Sheets* for all AS and A2 papers will no longer be provided as a perforated page.

The sheet will now be provided as a loose insert inside **all** papers.

The *Data Sheet* will be listed on the front page of the question paper as an essential item.

Physics B (6456) (Advanced)

January 2008 only

For PHB2 only, the *Formulae Sheet* will no longer be provided as a perforated page. For this paper the sheet will now be provided as a loose insert to the paper.

For all other appropriate papers in January, the *Formulae Sheet* will remain as a perforated page for candidates to remove should they wish.

June 2008 onwards

The *Formulae Sheet* for all AS and A2 papers will no longer be provided as a perforated page.

The sheet will now be provided as a loose insert inside **all** papers, with the exception of the PHB3 paper.

The *Formulae Sheet* will be listed on the front page of the question paper as an essential item.

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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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

Amendment to Specification and Teachers' Guide

The following change has been made to the Assessment Criteria for Unit 10 (section 19.4 of the specification).

In AO1, "connections between different **parts** of the industry" now replaces "connections between different aspects of the industry".

A related paragraph has been added to the delivery notes for Unit 10 in section 6.12 of the Teachers' Guide, under the heading 'What delivery strategy can be used?'

Candidates need to understand connections between different parts of the industry. A suggested approach is to consider the six sectors of the industry listed in Unit 1. How do links between these sectors contribute to the issue? For example, how have the growth of budget airlines and the increased ease of online self-packaging contributed to the decline of high street travel agents?

A2 Portfolio Standardisation

Following the autumn series of meetings, two further 'catch-up' meetings on portfolio standardisation have been scheduled for the spring term. Attendance at one of these sessions is compulsory if your centre is entering candidates for portfolio units in summer 2008 and no-one from your centre has yet attended a portfolio standardisation meeting at the relevant AS/A2 level. The catch-up meetings will be held in London on Tuesday 5 February 2008 and in Cardiff on Thursday 24 January 2008. For further details, contact the subject department **on** 01483 477867 or **e-mail** travel-andtourism@aqa.org.uk

Teacher Network Group

A Teacher Network Group has recently been set up to offer teachers of GCE Travel and Tourism a means of contacting each other regarding subject matters. If you have not yet registered your details with us, please contact the subject department **on** 01483 477867 for an application form.

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

On-screen testing Assessment of Key and Basic Skills: Levels 1 and 2

From 2008, AQA will be offering Key and Basic Skills tests on-screen as well as in traditional paper-based format. Centres are invited to register an intention to make entries for Key and Basic Skills Levels 1 and 2 on-screen tests in the March and /or May 2008 series, in the first instance. Once centres let us know that they are interested, we will send further information about how to make entries.

In future, the tests will be available six times a year on-screen as well as on paper in the following Key and Basic Skills:

Key Skills:

Application of Number
 Communication
 Information and Communication Technology

Basic Skills:

Adult Literacy
 Adult Numeracy

To be able to make entries for any, or all, of the on-screen tests Key and Basic Skills tests in 2008, your centre needs to:

- be an approved AQA centre
- have installed the QCA KS3 ICT test delivery system
- be in a position to run practice tests at least one month prior to the live test window (e.g. in February for the March series and April for the May series).

A flyer containing further information is **enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update**. To register your centre's intention to make entries for on-screen tests, please contact keyskills@aqa.org.uk

Basic, Key and Wider Key Skills Newsletter

The November newsletter for Basic, Key and Wider Key Skills is now on the AQA Website. If you currently teach any of these skills, please send us articles, teaching tips and examples of good practice for future editions that you would like to share with other centres. We welcome your ideas and any information that you think would be useful to other teachers of AQA Basic Skills, Key Skills and Wider Key Skills.

Subject Information

Key Skills Examinations

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If you wish to receive the news and updates by email, please **e-mail** the Key Skills team at keyskills@aqa.org.uk with your details with 'NEWS' in the subject line. If you wish to propose an article for submission in the newsletter, please **e-mail** it to keyskills@aqa.org.uk with 'ARTICLE' in the subject line.

Portfolio Advisers

Centres are reminded to contact their Portfolio Advisers for advice and guidance in producing the Key Skills portfolio. Please get in touch with the Key Skills team **on** 0161 953 7588 **or** 0161 953 7569 if you need to obtain your Adviser contact details.

Centre Standardising Meetings

For centres that have not attended the Centre Standardising Meetings which were available in November and December 2007, there will be further meetings in the spring term. Please contact the Key Skills team for the details **on** 0161 953 7588 **or** 0161 953 7569.

Key Skills Proxies

GCSE Use of Mathematics has now been added to the QCA list of proxy qualifications which may be claimed to exempt candidates from parts of the Key Skills. The complete list of proxy qualifications, along with conditions for their use, is given on the QCA website at http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_6562.aspx

French (4964)
German (4966)
Italian (4963)
Spanish (4969)

A new version of the 2008 Entry Level Certificate Candidate Record Form for French, German, Italian and Spanish has been produced. Version 1.1 can be found on the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework administration* section of AQA's Website.

Amendments have also been made to the Entry Level Certificate 2008 and 2009 specification for French, German, Italian and Spanish. The latest version of the specification may be accessed from the *Qualifications/Other exams/ELC* section of the AQA Website. Please ensure that you use the up-to-date version of the specification for the academic year 2007/2008.

Geography (4902)

Please note that your centre must use the Externally Set Assignments (ESAs) for the year in which the candidates will be certificating. Candidates being entered for the 2008 examination should therefore complete and submit as part of their portfolios only those ESAs which are labelled "For use in the 2008 examination".

The Externally Set Assignments for the 2009 examination were issued in October. You must submit an Estimate of Entry for 2009 to ensure that you receive copies of the ESAs for use in the 2009 examination.

The 2008 and 2009 versions of the Specification are now available on the AQA Website. Teachers must use these versions of the Specification for candidates being prepared for the 2008 and 2009 examination series. Important changes are as follows:

- the requirements for evidence to be offered for the Entry Level Certificate for Units 1 – 4 have been clarified
- the requirement for candidates to submit evidence from 4 units in order to gain an Entry Level Certificate has been removed
- an error in the numbering of outcomes in Unit 6 has been corrected.

Subject Information

Other Qualifications

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Enterprise and Employability (4805)

The Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise and Employability (4805) is a new qualification available for teaching from September 2007 for first award in summer 2008. A flyer is **enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update**.

Preparation for Working Life (4800)

The Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Working Life (4800) has been revised to include coursework (20%) in addition to the written paper (80%) for the summer 2008 award.

The above specifications are available to read/download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website under the section *Other Examinations and the Level 1/Level 2* category.