

► Subject Information

Publication of June 2008 exam materials

Exam materials from the June 2008 series will be available on e-AQA, our secure extranet, on the dates results are issued (14 August for GCE, FSMQ and AEA and 21 August for GCSE and ELC). Staff at centres registered with e-AQA will be able to access:

- question papers
- preliminary material
- mark schemes
- reports on the examination.

This is to enable teachers to refer to the material when considering their exam results and making decisions about requesting Access to Scripts and Enquiries about Results. The question papers and preliminary material are being made available for this purpose only. No permission is given for any other use of these materials, due to third party copyright restrictions.

Teachers who wish to use this service will need authority to access e-AQA. This may be obtained from the e-AQA Centre Administrator (usually the Exams Officer).

The Diploma

Information about the developments of the Diplomas is available from the *Developments/The Diploma* section of the AQA Website. If you require further help or advice on the Diplomas please contact our Exams Office Support helpdesk on 0870 410 1036.

For updated information, please consult the website where you can find out about the latest developments and also sign up to Functional Skills and Extended Project Pilots.

Revision of A Level specifications

Information on the GCE development work for specifications available for teaching from September 2008 is available on the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

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

► GCSE Examinations

GCSE General Studies (3761)

Paper 2

If you are entering candidates for the Paper 2 Case Study option please note that the topic area for the 2010 examination will be:

'The surveillance society: Big Brother is watching you!'

GCSE French (Specification A) Full Course (3651)

GCSE French (Specification A) Short Course (3657)

GCSE German (Specification A) Full Course (3661)

GCSE German (Specification A) Short Course (3667)

GCSE Spanish (Specification A) Full Course (3691)

GCSE Spanish (Specification A) Short Course (3697)

GCSE Bengali (3636)

GCSE Italian (3631)

GCSE Modern Hebrew (3676)

GCSE Panjabi (3681)

GCSE Polish (3686)

GCSE Urdu (3646)

We would like to remind Modern Foreign Language subject teachers that, with effect from Summer 2009, the Listening Tests for the above specifications are provided on CDs with the pauses built in to the recording. Invigilators will no longer need to pause the recording to allow candidates time to write their answers. The recording must not be paused once it has started.

Although CDs will be the default medium from now onwards, centres will be given the opportunity, until further notice, to request the Listening Tests on cassette tapes. For both CDs and tapes, the Foundation Tier and Higher Tier tests will be provided on a separate disk or tape.

You should already have received a letter from us inviting you to request cassette tapes for the summer 2009 examination. If your centre does require cassette tapes you must complete the form which accompanied this letter and return it to the Modern Foreign Languages Department at AQA's Harrogate office **by 25 July 2008**.

Please make sure that all teachers of Modern Foreign Languages have been informed of this significant change to format of the Listening Tests so that they can prepare their candidates appropriately.

Media Studies (3571)

Please note that the Controlled Test topic for 2009 is **Quiz Shows**.

The Controlled Test topic for 2010 will be **The Popular Press**.

Further guidance for the Controlled Test topics is available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications/Current GCSEs/Media Studies/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

► GCE Examinations

GCE Biology (2410) New Specification
GCE Human Biology (2405) New Specification
GCE Chemistry (2420) New Specification
GCE Physics Spec A (2450) New Specification
GCE Physics Spec B (2455) New Specification

Unit 3 & Unit 6

Investigative & Practical Skills – Route T

These units have an Investigative Skills Assignment (ISA) which is externally set by AQA, but internally marked within centres.

AQA will provide the details of the ISA through **one** CD Rom for all the above specifications. One copy of this CD will be sent to the Exams Officer and **must** be kept in secure conditions. They will be despatched to centres each September.

The CD will give access to the *Teachers Notes* for each of the specifications, providing details of the ISA investigations for the year. There will also be access to the *Task Sheet* and a guidance document, *Instructions for the Administration of the Investigative Skills Assignment* for each specification.

At a later stage, a password for each of the specifications will be sent to the Exams Officer. This will give access to the *ISA test paper and Marking Guidelines* on the CD.

In order for you to receive this CD Rom, please complete the 'Early Information –GCE (New Specifications)' which is **enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update**. Please refer to the Exams Administration Entries section 5, para 5.3 of this issue for details of how to submit this form.

Investigative & Practical Skills – Route X

Route X has an AQA externally set, externally marked component, the Externally Marked Practical Assignment (EMPA).

There will be a window of opportunity when centres will be able to set the EMPA test. This window has been set from **1 March** until the deadline date for the coursework submission.

The details of the EMPA will be supplied well in advance of the window in order for preparations to be made.

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

Two Centre Standardisation meetings will be held for units FR5C, GR5C and SP5C in Autumn 2008. One meeting will be held in the North and one meeting in the South.

There will be no Teacher Support Meetings for teachers conducting units FR3/6T, GR3/6T and SP3/6T in Autumn 2008. A support pack will be available free of charge. Please **e-mail**: mfl@aqa.org.uk or **telephone**: 01423 534381.

Mathematics (5361) Advanced Subsidiary
Mathematics (6361) Advanced
Further Mathematics (5371) Advanced Subsidiary
Further Mathematics (6371) Advanced

Revised version of the specification for 2009 onwards

Additional notes have been included in sections 20.1, 20.2 and 20.6 of the specification for **Statistics 1** in order to clarify some aspects of the specification. This is **not** a change to the requirements of the specification. A revised version of the specification is available in the *Qualifications/Current GCEs/Mathematics* section of the AQA Website.

Statistics (5381) Advanced Subsidiary
Statistics (6381) Advanced

Revised version of the specification for 2009 onwards

Additional notes have been included in sections 10.1, 10.2 and 10.6 of the specification for **Statistics 1** in order to clarify some aspects of the specification. This is **not** a change to the requirements of the specification. A revised version of the specification is available in the *Qualifications/Current GCEs/Statistics* section of the AQA Website.

► Key Skills Examinations

Basic Skills (8990)

Key Skills (9900) (KS2004)

Wider Key Skills (9970) (KS2004)

Portfolio Advisers

You are reminded to contact your Portfolio Advisers for advice and guidance in producing the Key Skills portfolio. If you need to obtain your Adviser details please contact the subject team on 0161 953 7588 or 0161 953 7569.

Basic, Key and Wider Key Skills Newsletter

The latest 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.

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.

The Key Skills Support Programme

The Key Skills Support Programme which has been a valuable source of advice and information to Key Skills centres for several years came to a close earlier this year. However, centres may still download useful materials and resources provided by KSSP from <http://excellence.qia.org.uk>

► Entry Level Certificate

Geography (4902)

Centres must order the Externally Set Assignments using the order form from the *Publications/Order by post/Order forms* page of the AQA Website.

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

If you have ordered ESAs but they have not arrived please contact Exams Office Support on 0870 410 1036.

Preparation for Working Life (4900)

The new Preparation for Working Life Entry Level Certificate is available for teaching from September 2008 for first award in summer 2009 and a flyer is **enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update**.

The qualification will award at Entry 1, 2 and 3. Each topic has units specifically written for candidates at Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3.

The course content covers areas of work-related learning that are a statutory requirement of the KS4 curriculum. It also allows progression onto the Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates in Preparation for Working Life and in Enterprise and Employability.

► Other Qualifications

Chinese (Mandarin) (9968) (FCSE)

French (9964) (FCSE)

German (9966) (FCSE)

Italian (9963) (FCSE)

Spanish (9969) (FCSE)

The new Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education (FCSE), which bridges the gap between ELC and GCSE, is available to all centres from September 2008. To order the assessment materials, which are free of charge, you should complete the *order form enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update*. Entry is made in the February of the year of award. For this year only, the order form is also being sent by post to all Heads of Modern Foreign Languages. Further information on this exciting new qualification can be accessed from the *Developments/FCSE-MFL* section of the AQA Website.