

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education**Business Studies (Short Course) (4131)**

The Controlled Assessment task for the summer 2010 exam will be released on **1 September 2009**. For future exams, the task will be published annually on 31 January. Centres will receive further information in due course about how the tasks will be issued.

Business Studies (4133)**Business and Communication Systems (4134)**

The Controlled Assessment tasks for these subjects for the summer 2011 exam will be released on **31 January 2010**. For future exams, the tasks will be published annually on 31 January. Centres will receive further information in due course about how the tasks will be issued.

Dance (4230)

One unit will be available for assessment in the June 2010 series. This is Unit 2 (42302), the Set Dance. We will send a pack of materials containing:

- the DVD
- the music CD
- notes on the two dances

to every centre who notifies us of expected entries in 2010 or 2011. You can order the pack using the online order form. We will despatch the packs in late summer. Our Teacher Support will provide practical training meetings for the two set dances; please check events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking/ regularly to find out when they are available.

Design and Technology: Electronic Products (4540)**Omitted text for GCSE Design & Technology: Electronic Products (4540) – page 7****Capacitors (top-right of page 7)**

The following text is missing from the printed version of the Design & Technology: Electronic Products (4540) Specification (v1.0):

‘Capacitors

Candidates should be taught to:

- understand that capacitors store electrical charge
- identify polarised and non-polarised capacitors and use the units of measurement correctly
- identify the anode and cathode leads of a polarised capacitor
- use a capacitor and resistor in combination to achieve a time delay
- understand the use of capacitors to smooth a dc voltage supply.’

Our website version 1.1 of the Design & Technology: Electronic Products (4540) Specification contains the previously omitted text and is available from the *Qualifications/GCSEs/D&T:Electronic Products* section of aqa.org.uk

Economics (4135)

The *Teachers’ Notes* for Unit 12 Investigating Economic Issues for the summer 2011 exam will be released on **31 January 2010**. Centres will receive further information in due course about how the tasks will be issued.

General Studies (3761)**Paper 2** (entry code 3761FW or 3761HW)

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

‘The surveillance society: Big Brother is watching you!’

General Studies (New Specification) (4760)

Our current Specification is being replaced by a unitised Specification for first teaching from September 2009. The Unit 1 exam will be offered from June 2010 and Unit 2 from June 2011. First certification is available from June 2011.

June 2010 Unit 1 (entry code 47601)

The topic area for the Unit 1 (Case Study) exam in 2010, the **first year** of this unitised Specification, will be:
'The surveillance society: Big Brother is watching you!'

June 2011 Unit 1 (entry code 47601)

The topic area for the Unit 1 (Case Study) exam in 2011 will be:
'Virtual worlds – living your life online'

Leisure and Tourism (Double Award) (3841)**Last Assessment Opportunity June 2010**

- The last assessment opportunity for all units in the current Specification is June 2010. A final re-sit opportunity for 3840/1 – Investigating Leisure and Tourism will be available in January 2011.
- Details of the new Specification for first teaching from September 2009 are available from the *Qualifications/GCSEs/Leisure & Tourism* section of aqa.org.uk
- Centres teaching Leisure and Tourism who are planning to finish teaching the course **after June 2010** ie as a three year course, must be teaching the new Specification with immediate effect.

Media Studies (4810)

The provisional timetabled exam for the Unit 1 topic for 2010 (**Reality Television**) is Friday 25 June 2010. The Preliminary Material (4810/PM) for this exam may be issued to candidates on or after Monday 10 May 2010, approximately six weeks prior to the exam. The original intention, as outlined in the Specification, was to release this material four weeks prior to the external assessment. This period has been extended to help centres whose candidates may be on study leave during this four week period.

Chinese (Mandarin) (4670)**French (4655)****German (4665)****Italian (4630)****Spanish (4695)****Urdu (4645)****Teacher Support Meetings for Controlled Assessment (New Specification)**

Section 8.3 of the Specification states that AQA will hold annual support meetings for teachers for Controlled Assessment Writing. Meetings will, in fact, be held for Controlled Assessment Speaking only. We will send further marked exemplar work for Writing to centres in autumn 2009 as part of the Teacher Resource Bank. We will appoint Controlled Assessment Advisers in autumn 2009 and they will provide guidance to teachers on Controlled Assessment Writing.

GCE General Certificate of Education

Business Studies Advanced (New Specification) (2131)

BUSS4 Preliminary Material Release Dates

Please note the following release dates for the BUSS4 Preliminary Material (Research Theme):

- for the first sitting of the BUSS4 examination in **January 2010** the Preliminary Material will be published at aqa.org.uk on **30 June 2009**. Hard copies will be despatched to centres in early **September 2009**.
- the BUSS4 Preliminary Material will then be released on a yearly basis, on **31 January**, for both the **June and January** series of exams, ie the Preliminary Material released on 31 January 2010 will be for June 2010 and January 2011 exams.

Communication & Culture (New Specification) (2625)

The topics for assessment for COMM2 June 2010 are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications/New GCEs/Communication & Culture/AS Outlines/Unit 2* section of aqa.org.uk

The topics for assessment and topic guides for COMM4 June 2010 are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications/New GCEs/Communication & Culture/AS Outlines/Unit 4* section of aqa.org.uk

Law Advanced Subsidiary (New Specification) (2160)

Unit 2 (LAW02) – January 2009 and beyond

There has been a minor alteration to the house style for this question paper, by comparison with the “legacy” LAW3 papers and the specimen LAW02 paper which we sent to all centres. Please pass on this information to your candidates. The change is as follows:

Where candidates are required to explain the meaning of a term, instead of the term being in emboldened text it will be within single quotes. For example, the question in the specimen papers requiring the explanation of duty of care would be posed thus:

‘Explain, using examples, the meaning of the term ‘duty of care.’

Research has shown that, in the interests of readability, it is advisable to minimise the use of bold text, which is why we have made the change.

Leisure Studies Advanced Subsidiary (8641)

Leisure Studies (Double Award) Advanced Subsidiary (8643)

Leisure Studies Advanced (8646)

Leisure Studies (Double Award) Advanced (8649)

Leisure Studies Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary (additional) (8647)

Availability of Units

From January 2011 the double award exam papers (LS04 and LS12) will no longer be available in the January exam series. The following table summarises the availability of units:

	Availability of units		Availability of qualification	
	AS	A2	AS	A2
January 2010	LS02	LS09	✓	✓
	LS04	LS12	✓	✓
June 2010	All AS units	All A2 units	✓	✓
January 2011	LS02 only	LS09 only	✓	✓
June 2011	All AS units	All A2 units	✓	✓

Publication of 2010 Specification

The marking scheme for internally and externally assessed GCE A2 units in Leisure Studies will make more specific reference to Quality of Written Communication. The Specification and new specimen papers are available from the *Qualifications/Current GCEs/Leisure Studies* section of aqa.org.uk

Nine unit awards are available in all the Applied GCE subjects and the A* grade will be available for the 2010 award.

Media Studies Advanced Subsidiary (New Specification) (1571)

Unit 1

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Unit 1: Investigating Media (MEST1) materials are now available on e-AQA. These include:

- January 2009 Question Paper and Mark Scheme
- January 2009 Commentary
- January 2009 Report on the Examination

Unit 2

Our online Teacher Resource Bank is now updated with GCE Advanced Subsidiary Unit 2: Creating Media (MEST2). Materials are now available at aqa.org.uk and include:

- MEST2 Submission Advice
- The Role of the Brief: MEST2.

Unit 3

Updated Teacher Resource Bank materials for GCE Advanced Level Unit 3: Critical Perspectives (MEST3) are now available at aqa.org.uk and include:

- Specimen Question Paper Exemplars
- Specimen Mark Scheme Exemplars.

Psychology Specification A Advanced (New Specification) (2180)

Unit 3 (PSYA3) and Unit 4 (PSYA4) – January 2010 and beyond

The rubric for PSYA3 for January 2010 and all following series will contain the instruction:

‘Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies, approaches, issues and debates in your answer.’

The rubric for PSYA4 for January 2010 and all following series will contain the following instructions:

For Section A:

‘Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies in your answer.’

For Section B:

‘Where appropriate, refer to theories and/or studies, approaches, issues and debates in your answer.’

Travel and Tourism Advanced Subsidiary (8651)

Travel and Tourism (Double Award) Advanced Subsidiary (8653)

Travel and Tourism Advanced (8656)

Travel and Tourism (Double Award) Advanced (8659)

Travel and Tourism Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary (additional) (8657)

Availability of units

From January 2011 the double award exam papers (TT05 and TT11) will no longer be available in the January exam series. The following table summarises the availability of units:

	Availability of units		Availability of qualification	
	AS	A2	AS	A2
January 2010	TT01	TT09	✓	✓
	TT05	TT11	✓	✓
June 2010	All AS units	All A2 units	✓	✓
January 2011	TT01 only	TT09 only	✓	✓
June 2011	All AS units	All A2 units	✓	✓

Publication of 2010 Specification

The marking scheme for internally and externally assessed GCE A2 units in Travel and Tourism will make more specific reference to Quality of Written Communication. The Specification and new specimen papers are available from the *Qualifications/Current GCEs/Travel & Tourism* section of aqa.org.uk

Nine unit awards are available in all the Applied GCE subjects and the A* grade will be available for the 2010 award.

Revisions to Teachers' Guide

A revised Scheme of Work is available for TT01 and a new Scheme of Work available for TT12. These can be found in the Teachers' Guide for this qualification available from the *Qualifications/Current GCEs/Travel & Tourism/Guidance for teachers* section of aqa.org.uk

AQA Baccalaureate

AQA Baccalaureate

With high levels of interest in the new AQA Bacc, we are holding a further series of teachers' meetings throughout spring and summer 2009. The meetings provide:

- an overview of the qualification
- details of the requirements
- feedback from the pilot experience

for those centres considering offering the AQA Bacc from this September. The AQA Bacc is the first English Baccalaureate to be accredited by QCA and has attracted over 150 centres, including:

- Sixth Form Colleges
- 11–18 schools (maintained and independent)
- FE Colleges.

Many more are currently seeking centre approval for their Enrichment schemes.

The AQA Enrichment Diary, successfully launched to centres in January, enables students and teachers to record and monitor enrichment activities electronically and to subsequently submit this record as evidence for the enrichment element of the AQA Bacc qualification.

For further information about the AQA Bacc and the support available to centres visit the *Qualifications/AQA Bacc* section of aqa.org.uk, e-mail bacc@aqa.org.uk or call 0161 957 3980.

ELC Entry Level Certificate

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) (3910)

Additions to 2010 Specification

Three new optional topics of study have been added to the ELC in PSHE available for first awarding in September 2010. Each new unit is available at Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3. The additional units are:

Unit 10 Being Safe

Unit 11 Being a Critical Consumer

Unit 12 Introduction to Diversity, Prejudice and Discrimination

For further information on all our PSHE qualifications please log on to: aqa.org.uk/otherqualifications or contact the WRL department directly. If you have any queries please call 01423 534 225 or e-mail us at pshe@aqa.org.uk

Other examinations and tests

New Level 1 (QCF) Award in Personal, Social and Health Education (4807)

A new QCF accredited qualification (Reference Number 500/3050/4) in PSHE is now available at Level 1, providing progression from our Entry Level Certificate. The award can be used within the Personal and Social Development strand of all four of the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) Progression Pathways. This is a unit-based qualification requiring the completion of two mandatory and two out of eight optional units. All units are assessed through teacher devised assessment tasks.

Plans for Level 2 qualification (QCF) in PSHE for first teaching in September 2009

We aim to have a brand new Level 2 QCF accredited qualification in PSHE available for first teaching in September 2009. Following a similar structure to that of the Level 1 qualification, it will complete our suite of PSHE qualifications and enable centres to create flexible programmes of study to meet the needs of the widest possible range of young people.

For further information on all our PSHE qualifications please go to: aqa.org.uk/otherqualifications or contact the WRL department directly. If you have any queries please call 01423 534 225 or e-mail us at pshe@aqa.org.uk

Functional Skills English Pilot

Summary of changes affecting May 2009 examination (series 096V)

Unit Level Component was changed from June 2009.

Unit 1: Reading Level 1 970011 & 97011S

Previously – 12 questions on two sources – six questions per source (total 12 marks)

From May 2009 – 15 questions on two sources – nine questions on source A and six questions on source B (total 15 marks)

Unit 1: Reading Level 2 970012 & 97012S

Previously – 36 questions on six sources – five to seven questions per source (total 36 marks)

From May 2009 – 30 questions on five sources (A to E) – (total 30 marks)

Unit 2: Writing Level 1 970021

Previously – One question testing writing to inform (total 10 marks)

From May 2009 – Two questions testing writing to inform (each 10 marks; total 20 marks)

Unit 2: Writing Level 2 970022

Previously – One question testing writing to inform & persuade (total 15 marks)

From May 2009 – Two questions – one question testing writing to inform (15 marks), one question testing writing to persuade (15 marks) (total 30 marks)

Unit 3: Speaking & Listening Level 1 Discussion 97003

Unchanged

Unit 3: Speaking & Listening Level 2 Discussion & Presentation 97003

Unchanged

Functional Skills ICT Pilot

Summary of the materials which are to be posted to the examiner for each Level of the ICT Functional Skills Unit 2 this June (952021 and 952022)

1. Unit 2 Section A: Task Candidate Booklets with printouts for each candidate
2. One printout of data files imported by the centre for Unit 2 Section A: Task
3. Attendance list for Unit 2 Section A containing Unit 2 Section B marks next to each candidate's name
4. Centre Compliance Folder containing:
 - task(s) information
 - five candidate checklists
 - five sets of evidence for the five candidate checklists.

Further details of these materials can be found in the *Centre instructions Unit 2 Section B* available from the *What's new/Functional skills/Assessment/ICT* section of aqa.org.uk

Key Skills and Basic Skills

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

Centre standardising meetings

A series of centre standardising meetings to assist teachers in the assessment of portfolio work will be held in the autumn term. They will cover the Key Skills of Application of Number, Communication, Information and Communication Technology and the Wider Key Skills. All centres which have previously made entries in these subjects will be invited. A list of these meetings will be published on the Key Skills website in October.

Reminder of change to scanning procedures

Centre mark forms, estimated grades, OTQ answer sheets and Key Skills forms must be returned to our Guildford office for scanning. The forms will then be returned to the usual administering office for further processing.

Portfolio Advisers

New centres planning to make entries for the first time in Key Skills or the Wider Key Skills should contact the subject team via keyskills@aqa.org.uk in the first instance. This will enable us to allocate a Portfolio Adviser to the centre to advise on:

- the interpretation of the standards (Specification)
- portfolio work throughout the year.

This service is free of charge.

Additionally, all the appropriate documentation for Key Skills or the Wider Key Skills may be found on the *Qualifications/Other/Key Skills* section of aqa.org.uk

Remember to contact your Portfolio Adviser for advice and guidance in producing the Key Skills portfolio. Please telephone the Key Skills team on 0161 953 7588 or 0161 953 7569 if you need to obtain your Adviser contact details.