

April 2008

For the attention of the Head Teacher

Direct Line: 0161 958 3736

Direct Fax: 0161 273 7572

E-mail: eos@aqa.org.uk

Please ask for:

Your ref:

Our ref:

Dear Colleague

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AFFECTING AQA MAY/JUNE 2008 EXAMS

Security breach

I am extremely sorry to have to report that the security of a number of question papers for the May/June 2008 GCE and GCSE exams may have been compromised. Despite strict control of despatch arrangements, some consignments of papers addressed to schools and colleges in the South of England have not arrived. This has occurred as a result of the theft of a distribution contractor's van which, as part of its load, was carrying AQA question papers for routine delivery to centres.

Following investigations, we have decided that to maintain the integrity and security of the exams for all candidates we must replace the affected question papers. There will be no changes to any of the preliminary materials issued to you for the subjects involved.

We do appreciate that this decision will cause you and your staff extra work but replacement of papers is the only practical way of securing the interests of all candidates in these particular circumstances.

We are currently finalising the preparation of replacement question papers and will be printing and despatching copies for delivery immediately after the early May Bank Holiday.

A personalised list and delivery arrangements for the affected question papers for which your centre has entries and grey plastic bags for storing the original papers are enclosed with this letter. Instructions for identifying and subsequently replacing your current stock of question papers with the revised versions are also attached. We will provide separate instructions for dealing with any modified question papers for the affected components. If you have any difficulties or questions, please ring 0161 958 3736.

The Regulatory Authorities (QCA in England, DCELLS in Wales and CCEA in Northern Ireland) are aware of the situation and of the action we are taking.

In addition to this printed correspondence, we are sending an email to your centre. This email will contain a link through which we ask you to confirm receipt of these instructions. If you are unable to respond electronically, please fax the attached reply slip to us on the fax number provided.

Despite the extra work this change inevitably causes, I am sure that you will support the action we are taking to guarantee the integrity of the exams and thus protect the interests of all candidates.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Cresswell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Cresswell
Director General

Level	Component Code	Exam Paper Title	Date of Exam	Despatch to arrive in centres
GCE	CPT3	Computing Unit 03	12 May 2008	06 May 2008
GCE	SC3W	Sociology Unit 03	13 May 2008	06 May 2008
GCE	HEB1	Modern Hebrew Unit 01	15 May 2008	08 May 2008
GCE	CPT1	Computing Unit 01	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	CPT2	Computing Unit 02	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	ICT1	Information and Communication Technology Unit 01	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	PYA1	Psychology A Unit 01	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	PYA2	Psychology A Unit 02	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	PYA3	Psychology A Unit 03	16 May 2008	09 May 2008
GCE	SCY1	Sociology Unit 01	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	SCY2	Sociology Unit 02	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	SP01	Spanish Unit 01	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	SP01/T	Spanish Unit 01 Transcript	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	SP01/LT	Spanish Unit 01 Tape	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	SP02	Spanish Unit 02	19 May 2008	12 May 2008
GCE	FR01	French Unit 01	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	FR01/LT	French Unit 01 Tape	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	FR01/T	French Unit 01 Transcript	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	FR02	French Unit 02	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	HOA1	History of Art Unit 01	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	HOA2	History of Art Unit 02	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	HOA3	History of Art Unit 03	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCE	BUS1	Business Studies Unit 01	22 May 2008	15 May 2008
GCE	BUS2	Business Studies Unit 02	22 May 2008	15 May 2008
GCE	BUS3	Business Studies Unit 03	22 May 2008	15 May 2008
GCE	LAW1	Law Unit 01	23 May 2008	16 May 2008
GCE	LAW2	Law Unit 02	23 May 2008	16 May 2008
GCE	LAW3	Law Unit 03	23 May 2008	16 May 2008
GCE	MED1	Media Studies Unit 01	02 June 2008	23 May 2008
GCE	MED1/DVD	Media Studies Unit 01 DVD	02 June 2008	23 May 2008
GCE	MED2	Media Studies Unit 02	02 June 2008	23 May 2008
GCE	BYA1	Biology/Human Biology A Unit 01	03 June 2008	27 May 2008
GCE	BYA2	Biology/Human Biology A Unit 02	03 June 2008	27 May 2008
GCE	BYA3	Biology/Human Biology A Unit 03	03 June 2008	27 May 2008

Level	Component Code	Exam Paper Title	Date of Exam	Despatch to arrive in centres
GCSE	3712/F	English Literature A Foundation	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCSE	3712/H	English Literature A Higher	20 May 2008	13 May 2008
GCSE	3702/1F	English A Paper 1 Foundation	03 June 2008	27 May 2008
GCSE	3702/1H	English A Paper 1 Higher	03 June 2008	27 May 2008
GCSE	3702/2F	English A Paper 2 Foundation	05 June 2008	29 May 2008
GCSE	3702/2H	English A Paper 2 Higher	05 June 2008	29 May 2008

Security Breach Contact Centre: Tel: 0161 958 3736

The security breach affects **some of the papers** in the following subjects:

- **GCE Business Studies, Biology Specification A, Computing, French, Modern Hebrew, History of Art, ICT, Law, Media Studies, Psychology Specification A, Sociology and Spanish**

Replacement papers will be clearly identified by orange coloured question paper labels inside the question paper packets.

- **GCSE English Specification A, English Literature Specification A**

Replacement papers will be clearly identified by coloured question paper labels inside the question paper packets as follows: GCSE English and English Literature Specification A, Foundation tier: yellow labels; GCSE English and English Literature Specification A, Higher tier: green labels.

The paper codes include the letter R after the usual component code (eg BUS1R, 3702/1FR) and the question paper labels will be clearly marked 'REPLACEMENT PAPERS'.

The attached personalised list indicates the components affected for which your centre has entries and the date by which you will receive new versions of the papers.

We are providing grey plastic bags for you to keep the original papers securely stored separately from other papers.

Parcel Force will be collecting the original papers from you between **1 May and 7 May** for return to AQA.

It is vital that you isolate the original papers on the attached list immediately. Please take the following action:

1. Remove the original papers from your secure storage and place them in the bag(s) provided. We will enclose sufficient bags to allow you to 'quarantine' the original papers for your affected components.
2. If you have any modified question papers for the affected components, keep these in your secure storage. You will receive separate information on the arrangements for these modified papers.
3. Do **not** return any preliminary materials or Anthologies.
4. Do **not** open the security bags in which the papers are packed, but store them intact.
5. Keep the grey bags of papers in a secure place until collected by Parcel Force. Mark your centre number on the outside of the bags. Hand the bags of papers over to Parcel Force when the driver comes to collect them.
6. If you have not received replacement papers by the date shown for your affected papers, please telephone the AQA Security Breach Contact Centre on **0161 958 3736**. We will immediately arrange to despatch copies of the papers to you for guaranteed delivery by 9.00am on the following day.
7. Ensure that the replacement papers are stored securely and that they are issued to candidates in the scheduled session for the exam. The dates and times of the papers are as shown on the AQA timetable and also on the front of the relevant question paper.
8. We have published information about this matter on the AQA website and we will also put reminders on the website nearer the time of the exams.

If you have any difficulties with any of these arrangements, please contact our special helpline shown above.