

Quality of Written Communication (QWC)

The GCE Applied ICT specification is undergoing some minor developments to incorporate QWC into the 2010 (and onwards) specification. This does not affect the content of the specification nor does it affect the marks available for the assessment in each unit. This ensures that the weighting of each unit in the specification, and each assessment objective (AO) in that unit, remain consistent with that outlined in the Specification.

Externally assessed units (IT01, IT09 and IT10)

From January 2010 both QWC will be incorporated into the A2 externally assessed (IT09 and IT10). QWC will not be assessed in the AS externally assessed unit (IT01) until January 2011.

We have used generic text in all externally assessed units to assess QWC. The guidance regarding the awarding of the range of marks is shown below.

<p>High mark range</p> <p>Candidate has evaluated their system relating the results of testing to their evaluation criteria. Candidate has critically evaluated their system in relation to the needs of the client identifying improvements that could be made in the future. Candidate has critically evaluated their own performance, identifying strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Text is readable. There are few, if any, errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. Meaning is clear for a reader. Candidate has selected and used a form and style of writing and presentation appropriate to purpose and has expressed complex ideas clearly and fluently. Information is well structured with sentences and paragraphs following on from one another clearly and coherently. Specialist vocabulary has been used appropriately, including appropriate technical terms that relate to ICT.</p>
<p>Mid-mark range</p> <p>Candidate has evaluated their system using the evaluation criteria and/or the needs of the client. Candidate has reviewed their progress making some comments regarding strengths and weaknesses. Text is readable. There may be occasional errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. Most of the meaning is clear for a reader. Candidate has, in the main, used a form and style of writing and presentation which is appropriate for its purpose. Candidate has expressed moderately complex ideas clearly and reasonably fluently. Candidate has used well-linked sentences and paragraphs so that information is generally well structured. There is some evidence of appropriate use of technical terminology.</p>

Low mark range

Candidate has attempted to evaluate their system and/or their own performance. Text is readable. There may be some errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. The reader can understand what is written but the meaning is not always clear. Candidate has used a form and style of writing and presentation which is sometimes appropriate to its purpose, but with deficiencies. Candidate has expressed straightforward ideas clearly, if not always fluently. Sentences and paragraphs may not always be well-connected. Information presented may lack structure.

Implementation timetable

The assessment of QWC will be phased in over 2 specifications, 2010 and 2011.

How will this affect your candidates?

1. Candidates who began the course in 2008 (i.e. those using the 2010 specification).

AS (2009) – no changes to the assessment of QWC in 2010

A2 (2010) – change to the (2009) assessment of QWC in externally assessed units (January 2010 onwards)

2. Candidates who begin the course in 2009 (i.e. those using the 2011 specification) and all subsequent candidates.

AS (2010) – change to the assessment of QWC in externally assessed unit (January 2011 onwards)

A2 (2011) – change to the assessment of QWC in externally assessed units (January 2010 onwards)

Cohort – Commencing	Specification used	AS Externally assessed unit	A2 Externally assessed units
2008	2010	X	✓
2009	2011	✓	✓

* the table summaries the opportunities for the assessment of QWC in the externally assessed units