



ASSESSMENT and  
QUALIFICATIONS  
ALLIANCE

**General Certificate of Education**

**Applied Science**

**8771/8773/8776/8777/8779**

**Quality of Written Communication**

**Stretch & Challenge**

*2010 examination onwards*

## Quality of Written Communication (QWC) and Stretch and Challenge

The GCE Applied Science specification is undergoing some minor developments to incorporate QWC and Stretch and Challenge 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.

### Written units (SC02/5/8/11/14)

From January 2010 both QWC and Stretch and Challenge will be incorporated into the A2 written papers (SC08, SC11 and SC14). Further details can be found with the commentaries that accompany the amended specimen papers, these are available from our website. QWC and Stretch and Challenge will not be assessed in the AS written papers (SC02 and SC05).

### Portfolio units (SC01/3/4/6/7/9/10/12/13/15/16)

From June 2010, QWC will be assessed in all portfolio units. In the assessment grid for each unit, the QWC statements will be contained in AO3 (ii) across all 4 mark bands. (With the exception of SC01 where QWC is assessed in AO1 across all 4 mark bands)

We have used generic text in all units to assess QWC; the text used for each mark band is as shown in the table below.

<b>Mark Band 1</b>	Information in the portfolio is poorly organised and lacks a coherent structure although it may contain some valid points. The portfolio contains significant errors and/or omissions in the use of technical terms, spelling, punctuation and grammar leading to a lack of clarity.
<b>Mark Band 2</b>	Information in the portfolio shows some organisation and structure and contains some valid evidence. The portfolio contains some errors and/or omissions in the use of technical terms, spelling, punctuation and grammar leading to inconsistency in clarity.
<b>Mark Band 3</b>	Information in the portfolio is mainly well organised and structured and is supported by valid evidence. The portfolio is expressed with reasonable clarity but has a few minor errors and/or omissions in the use of technical terms, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
<b>Mark Band 4</b>	Information in the portfolio is logically organised leading to a coherent structure and is supported by a range of valid evidence. The portfolio is clearly expressed with few minor errors in the use of technical terms, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## Implementation timetable

The assessment of QWC and Stretch and Challenge 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 assessment of QWC and Stretch and Challenge

A2 (2010) – assessment of QWC and stretch and challenge in written papers from January 2010 and QWC in portfolio units June 2010

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

AS (2010) – assessment of QWC in portfolio units June 2010

No assessment of QWC and stretch and challenge in AS written papers

A2 (2011) – assessment of QWC and Stretch and Challenge in written papers  
QWC in portfolio units

Cohort – Commencing	Specification used	AS written papers	AS portfolios	A2 written papers	A2 portfolios
2008	2010	X	X	✓	✓
2009	2011	X	✓	✓	✓

\* the table summaries the opportunities for the assessment of QWC and Stretch and Challenge