

## Using the Scheme with AQA's Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education (FCSE) Qualification

- If a centre wishes to accredit the achievement of individual units from the FCSE qualification, this can be done through the UAS.
- The specification is made up of a series of units. The specification imposes certain restrictions on the combinations of units which may be chosen.
- FCSE promotes formal accreditation in Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Spanish and Italian for students who have covered the equivalent of National Curriculum Levels 4, 5 and 6, bridging the gap between ELC and GCSE qualifications.
- AQA offers the unit-based FCSE specification with links to the UAS in the following subjects:

Chinese (Mandarin)	Spanish
French	Italian
German	

- A list of all unit codes can be found on the UAS website <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/uas.php>. For further details of the units, please refer to the latest FCSE specification <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/fcse/fcse.php>.

### Accrediting achievement of individual units through the UAS

- Many teachers would like their students to receive credit for each individual unit which they complete as they progress through the course. The UAS provides such a facility.
- Students at centres which are registered to participate in the UAS obtain a *Unit Award Statement* for each unit that they complete. The *Statement* shows the title and outcomes of the unit. A student could therefore obtain a series of *Unit Award Statements* for each unit that he/she is following.
- To receive accreditation for an individual unit under the UAS, a student must demonstrate achievement of all the outcomes of that unit. The specification requires the completion of externally-set assignments for listening and reading components. For UAS purposes, it is **not** necessary for the student to submit work done in response to an externally-set assignment, although such evidence **may** be submitted instead of, or as well as, the other evidence which is specified for that unit. The unit will be awarded within the UAS provided that **all** outcomes have been achieved and sufficient appropriate evidence has been produced to demonstrate this achievement.
- *Unit Award Statements* are issued shortly after the student has completed a unit and can be included within a student's progress file or equivalent.
- In formally recognising the smaller steps of achievement which each completed unit represents, the UAS serves to encourage and motivate students for whom the final award of the qualification may seem a distant goal.
- Those students who cannot, for whatever reason, produce enough work across the required number of units to be entered for a qualification may still receive formal recognition, through the UAS, for any units which they have completed.

## The AQA Unit Award Scheme

- Approximately 1200 centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland use the UAS. These centres can use the UAS in relation to AQA's FCSE qualification as well as the Entry Level and the QCF Qualifications in Personal and Social Education (PSE). It is also used with students of all abilities and ages in a wide range of non-qualification contexts, including curriculum delivery, work-related learning and work experience, enrichment activities, personal development, sport, outdoor pursuits and study skills. The Scheme can also be used to acknowledge the achievement of students with particular learning difficulties for whom courses leading to a qualification may be inappropriate.

## How to register for the AQA UAS

- Centres wishing to use the UAS must be **specifically** registered for that purpose with the UAS department in Harrogate. **This is a separate registration from the FCSE qualifications.**
- If in doubt, contact the UAS department for advice.

## Unit Award Scheme fees

- All UAS fees are **additional** to those charged for the FCSE qualifications. Please refer to our current [fees](#) for more details.

## Contact us

Further information is available from

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Unit Award Scheme Department  
31-33 Springfield Avenue  
Harrogate  
HG1 2HW

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Fax: 01423 564875

e-mail: [unitawardscheme@aqa.org.uk](mailto:unitawardscheme@aqa.org.uk)

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/uas.php>