



## GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Information and Communication Technology specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:

 Visit [www.ccea.org.uk/specifications](http://www.ccea.org.uk/specifications) to view the full revised specification for your subject.

 Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to [www.ccea.org.uk/specifications](http://www.ccea.org.uk/specifications) to download the full GCE ICT AS & A2 Specification



## CONTACT US NOW

### Subject Officer

**Ed Paynter**  
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2133  
Email: [epaynter@ccea.org.uk](mailto:epaynter@ccea.org.uk)

For queries in relation to:  
Specification content  
Subject-specific issues  
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

### Specification Support Officer

**Catriona Skelton**  
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2292  
Email: [cskelton@ccea.org.uk](mailto:cskelton@ccea.org.uk)

For queries in relation to:  
Requesting a meeting  
Requesting further support  
General subject-specific queries

### Entries, Results and Certification Team

**Nicola Laight**  
Tel: (028) 9026 1262 or ext 2392  
Email: [nlaight@ccea.org.uk](mailto:nlaight@ccea.org.uk)

For queries in relation to:  
Entries  
Results

### Distribution Team

**Bernard Trainor**  
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168  
Email: [btrainor@ccea.org.uk](mailto:btrainor@ccea.org.uk)

For queries in relation to:  
Requesting materials



**WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US**

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We're proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service."

Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA

"I'm delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect."

Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA

## WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE...

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

95.5% of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

\* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research

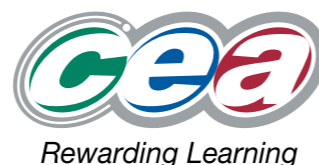


# REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



## SUMMARY

- AS 1: **Components of ICT** – 2 hr external exam, 50% of AS, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- AS 2: **Developing ICT Solutions** – internal assessment of two compulsory tasks, 50% of AS, 25% of A Level, available Summer
- A2 1: **Information Systems** – 2 hr external exam, 25% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 2: **Approaches to Systems Development** internal assessment of a project, 25% of A Level, available Summer

## KEY FEATURES

- Provides valuable preparation for careers in professional ICT management
- Offers advanced study of modern technology-based systems
- Presents an easy to follow specification with pathways clearly identified in a modular approach
- Reduces assessment burden and provides stretch and challenge at A2
- Develops advanced skills in a range of generic packages
- Presents a mixture of examinations formats and question types
- Offers support for centres including detailed schemes of work

## BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- As discerning users of ICT;
- A capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically;
- Skills to work collaboratively;
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT to a range of problem-solving contexts;
- An understanding of the consequences and considerations of using ICT; and
- An awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of the potential impact these may have.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	Fundamentals of Information and Communication Technology	AS 1	Components of ICT	The new AS 1 contains content from the current AS 2 unit. It also requires a more relevant and modern understanding of the internet and networks.  The exam is now 2 hrs long instead of 1½ hrs.	To give students a more up-to-date understanding of the advances in communication applications and to allow them to develop knowledge that is important to employers  To allow for the content of AS 1 to be appropriately assessed
AS 2	Components of Information and Communication Technology	AS 2	Developing ICT Solutions	This unit now allows candidates to solve two separate tasks using a data processing package and a multimedia package.	Because during consultations with teachers and stake holders, it was agreed that a multimedia task will provide students with a more modern and accessible option of solving a task, whilst the processing task will involve the more functional business skills
AS 3	Use of Generic Application Software for solving a given task			We have deleted this unit. The current AS 3 unit is now the new AS 2 unit.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two
A2 1	Development of Information Systems	A2 1	Information Systems	This unit now contains content from the current A2 2 unit. We have also modernised content on the implications of information systems to take into account how ICT is used within the workplace.  The exam is now 2 hrs long instead of 1½ hrs.	To provide students with a greater appreciation of how ICT affects employers and employees  To allow the content of A2 1 to be appropriately assessed
A2 2	Uses of Information Systems	A2 2	Approaches to Systems	The project is based on systems development.	Because the current Unit 6 is incorporated into the new A2 2
A2 3	Development of an Application package for a third party			We have deleted this unit. The current A2 3 unit is now the new A2 2 unit.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three A2 units be reduced to two

## COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

### LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named on the back cover if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed on the back cover.



**CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR**

### LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at [www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes](http://www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes)

### SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE ICT specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

### SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk) to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

## BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Lecturers in Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- Representatives from Employer Committees;
- Members of Subject Associations; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.

