

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.



Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full GCE Physics AS & A2 Specification

physics

GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Physics 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 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 to download the full GCE Physics AS & A2 Specification

physics

CONTACT US NOW

Subject Officer

Kevin Henderson

Tel: (028) 9026 1418

Email: khenderson@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

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

For queries in relation to:

Entries

Results

Distribution Team

Bernard Trainor

Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168

Email: 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 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 PHYSICS

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010

physics

SUMMARY

- AS 1: **Forces Energy and Electricity** – Written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing (75 marks), 1hr 30mins, 37% of AS, 18.5% of A Level, available January and Summer
- AS 2: **Waves, Photons and Medical Physics** – Written paper consisting of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing (75 marks), 1hr 30mins, 37% of AS, 18.5% of A Level, available January and Summer.
- AS 3: **Practical Techniques** – Test of practical skills: 4 short experimental tests (20 marks) and 1 analysis of experimental results (20 marks), 1hr 30mins, 26% of AS, 13% of A Level, available Summer only
- A2 1: **Momentum, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics** – Written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and embedded elements of synoptic assessment (75 marks), 1hr 30mins, 37% of AS, 18.5% of A Level, available January and Summer
- A2 2: **Fields and their Application** – Written paper consisting of a number of compulsory short-answer questions, some with opportunities for extended writing and embedded elements of synoptic assessment, 1hr 30mins, 37% of A2 and 18.5% of A Level, available Summer only
- A2 3: **Practical Techniques** – Test of practical skills: 2 experimental tests (40 marks) and 1 question on planning and design (20 marks), synoptic assessment through the planning and design question (60 marks), 1hr 30mins, 26% of A2, 13% of A Level, available Summer only

KEY FEATURES

- Reduces time spent on written examinations compared to previous specifications
- Presents more testing and less-structured questions to provide stretch and challenge at A2
- Offers valuable preparation for entering higher education in physics or related subjects

BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

We have designed this specification to help learners develop:

- An interest and enthusiasm for physics and further study and careers in the subject area;
- An appreciation of how scientific decisions are made and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society;
- A deeper understanding of how science works; and
- Knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	Forces and Electricity	AS 1	Forces, Energy and Electricity	The exam is now worth 75 marks and is 1½ hours long.	To allow candidates more opportunity to show their knowledge and understanding of the topics assessed
AS 2	Waves and Photons	AS 2	Waves, Photons and Medical Physics	The exam is now worth 75 marks and is 1½ hours long. This unit now includes elements of Medical Physics, which are currently assessed in AS 3.	To enable candidates more opportunity to show their knowledge and understanding of the topics assessed Because subject criteria requirements do not allow for a split unit
AS 3	Medical Physics and Practical	AS 3	Practical Techniques	We have removed Medical Physics from this unit. Candidates must now complete a practical examination, which is marked by teachers using our prescribed mark scheme.	Because subject criteria requirements do not allow for a split unit Subject criteria require an internally assessed unit at AS. Our view is that coursework would not be a popular option for teachers. Instead we have opted for an internally-assessed practical exam
A2 1	Energy, Oscillations and Fields	A2 1	Momentum, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics	The synoptic data analysis question is now shorter and worth only 15 marks.	To allow more assessment of the content contained within the A2 2 unit
A2 2	Electromagnetism and Nuclear Physics	A2 2	Fields and their Applications	We have replaced the synoptic comprehension question with a shorter synoptic free response question, which draws together different strands of the specification. This unit now contains elements of Particle Physics currently assessed in A2 3.	To introduce a more appropriate way of assessing the synoptic element at A2 Because subject criteria requirements do not allow for a split unit
A2 3	Particle Physics and Practical	A2 3	Practical Techniques	We have removed Particle Physics from this unit. Candidates must now complete a practical examination, which is marked by teachers using our prescribed mark scheme.	Because subject criteria requirements do not allow for a split unit Subject criteria require an internally assessed unit at A2. Our view is that coursework would not be a popular option for teachers. Instead we have opted for an internally-assessed practical exam

Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full GCE Physics AS & A2 Specification

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 overleaf 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 overleaf.

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

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 Physics 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 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 to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

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

