

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL
Student Guide
**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

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Student Guide: Information and Communication Technology

In GCE ICT you will learn about the different ICT components, you will develop ICT solutions through a project, you will look at information systems and approaches to systems development. Your ICT skills will be assessed by a 2 hour examination at both AS and A2 level and you will also complete a coursework unit at each level.

The AS (Advanced Subsidiary)/A2 structure of this GCE means you can study for the AS Level award, completing units AS 1 and AS 2 and then decide if you wish to continue to A2 Level where you will complete the two additional units A2 1 and A2 2. This will lead to an award for the full Advanced GCE.

Q. Why study GCE ICT?

This course is suitable for you if you wish to further your education in ICT. You can take this course as a 1 year AS level course which would be beneficial for use with almost every subject you would like to study in the future and it would also be beneficial in practically every career. If you go on to study the full GCE (ie both the AS and A2 course) then it would provide a good foundation for students going on to further study at university or for students going into the world of work.



Q. What do I need to be able to take this course?

Most candidates will have gained skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT through successful completion of a GCSE related course (eg GCSE ICT Full or Short course or Applied ICT). You should also have an interest in the subject and a desire to study it at a higher level.

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Q. What will I study?

You will complete 4 assessment units at GCE ICT.

AS 1: Components of ICT	In this unit you will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and Information • Hardware and Software Components • Network Communication • Applications of ICT • Developing ICT Applications
AS 2: Developing ICT Solutions	In this unit you will have the opportunity to develop practical aspects of the subject and apply your knowledge and understanding of ICT. You will produce an ICT solution to task-related problems. There will be a data processing task and a multimedia task.
A2 1: Information Systems	In this unit you will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database systems • Networked systems • Software development • The user interface • User support and training • Legal and professional issues • Implications of information systems
A2 2: Approaches to Systems Development	In this unit you will complete a detailed project. You will identify and research a realistic problem and you will then design a solution, implement and test your solution, document and evaluate the solution.

Through your study of ICT you will also develop the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically as well as skills to work collaboratively. You will also gain an understanding of the consequences of using ICT on individuals, organisations and society and of social, legal, ethical considerations on the use of ICT.

Q. How is GCE ICT assessed?

There are 2 assessment units at AS Level and 2 at A2 level. All units are equally weighted and are worth 25% of the A Level award.

Unit	Type of Assessment
AS 1: Components of ICT Worth 50% of AS 25% of A Level	2 hour external examination paper. <i>Available in January and summer series of examinations.</i>
AS 2: Developing ICT Solutions Worth 50% of AS 25% of A Level	Internal assessment of 2 compulsory tasks <i>Available in the summer series of examinations.</i>
A2 1: Information Systems Worth 50% of A2 25% of A Level	2 hour external examination paper <i>Available in January and summer series of examinations.</i>
A2 2: Approaches to Systems Development Worth 50% of A2 25% of A Level	Internal assessment of a project <i>Available in the summer series of examinations.</i>

Q. What can I do with a qualification in ICT?

GCE ICT can lead into either further education in a range of fields or directly into employment. An ICT qualification can lead to a wide range of careers including ICT management, multimedia, software design, games design, computer programming, graphic design, CAM engineering, CAD design.

How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying Information and Communication Technology. These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Students who are already studying the subject
- www.ccea.org.uk/ict
- Careers advisor
- UCAS www.ucas.com or CAO www.cao.ie for details on entry requirements for university courses

To view the full specification and the full range of support material available for GCE Information and Communication Technology, please visit the ICT microsite www.ccea.org.uk/ict

