

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY at AS/A2 LEVEL

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

WHY STUDY ICT?

ICT is a subject which will link equally well with either the Arts or the Sciences as it has many facets and pervades the whole curriculum.

Students acquire a broad and balanced view of the range of applications and information systems, and an understanding of their capabilities and limitation, and the implications for their use as well as an awareness of the role of ICT in the management, manipulation and dissemination of information.

While exploring the advanced features of software it develops the ability of the students to analyse, appraise and make critical judgements about the use of information and communication technology systems through their practical application to solve problems.

At AS the two units are complementary and are concerned with applying ICT to solve problems and the study of the opportunities for and affects of using ICT in the world today. Candidates will have the opportunity to put into practice a wide range of software and hardware to create solutions to solve problems

At A2 students will study the concepts associated with the use of ICT in the 21st century. They will also have opportunities of acquiring skills needed in the IT profession such as co-operative working and project management. These practical skills can be developed in areas of ICT that are of interest to them. Students can also use these newly acquired skills as a springboard into other qualifications and working environments.

Student must learn communication skills to effectively complete their coursework tasks, one for AS and another for A2 as they must be based on real problems for an actual end user.

Skills learnt on the course are in demand across a wide range of disciplines.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to providing a suitable route for progression for candidates of GCSE Business and Communication Systems, the course of study can also reasonably be undertaken by candidates beginning their formal education in the subject at post 16 level.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER CHOICES

Students can chose to specialise in IT Applications or IT Management and IT can be combined with any subject so that new courses are constantly being developed.

Many of these courses offer work placements providing opportunities for specific experience.

IT Management or IT Applications but as IT can be combined with any area of modern life it is difficult to be definitive as new opportunities are constantly being developed

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

AS level is taken in Year 12, it is comprised of two modules

The candidates are entered for one module in the January session and one in the summer.

<u>AS EXAMINATION</u>	
Unit 1 - Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World	
1 hour 30 minutes Short answer and structured questions	50% of the total AS mark 25% of the total A Level mark
Unit 2 - Living in the Digital World	
1 hour 30 minutes Short answer and structured questions	50% of the total AS mark 25% of the total A Level mark

A2 is taken in Year 13. This is also made up of two modules:-

<u>A2 EXAMINATION</u>	
Unit 3 - The Use of ICT In the Digital World	
2 hours Section A structured questions based on pre-released material Section B questions requiring extended prose answers	30% of the total A Level mark
Unit 4 - Coursework	
A report based upon practical work/investigation. Internally marked externally moderated.	20% of the total A Level mark

Unit 3 is sat in January and the other in the summer. There is also the opportunity to re-sit modules in order to improve grade/point scores.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Students or parent requiring further details are most welcome to contact Mrs G Richards, Head of Business Studies.