

# A Level ICT

## AQA Specification 2007

AQA Syllabus 5521 and 6521

### You should choose ICT AS and A2 if:

- you want to know how Information and Communications Technology is affecting our society, education, industry, commerce and health provision
- you want to develop your word processing, spreadsheet and database skills

### During the AS and A2 courses you will:

- become an advanced user of industry-standard word processors, spreadsheets, databases and other generic software
- consider how information technology is used to solve problems in business and industry
- gain an understanding of systems analysis and design
- develop logical problem-solving skills
- learn how IT systems are implemented, tested, documented and evaluated
- produce your own ICT solutions to business problems

Both the AS and A2 courses combine theory with large amounts of practical work.

### Course Content and Assessment

#### Year 1: AS

##### **Module 1:** Information – Nature, Role and Context

The nature of information and data and where it is used. Assessed through a written paper of 1 hour 45 mins; short answer and structured questions. 30% of the AS mark, 15% of the A Level mark

##### **Module 2:** Information, Management and Manipulation

How data is processed and used in information systems. Assessed through a written paper of 1 hour 45 mins; short answer and structured questions. 30% of the AS mark, 15% of the A Level mark

##### **Module 3:** Practical task set internally

Practical work using Excel. Projects include financial monitoring software, building cost estimation systems etc. 40% of the AS mark, 20% of the A Level mark

#### Year 2: A2

##### **Module 4:** Information Systems within Organisations

How large organizations use data and information. Assessed through a written paper of 2 hours; short answer and structured questions, one essay. 15% of the A Level mark

##### **Module 5:** Information: Policy, Strategy and Systems

The role of computer systems in large organizations Assessed through a written paper of 2 hours; short answer and structured questions, one essay. 15% of the A Level mark

##### **Module 6:** Practical Project

With guidance you will devise your own coursework topic, using a large database program to solve a specific problem. Previous coursework topics include customer order systems for shops, restaurant table booking systems etc.

20% of the A Level mark

**Skills and interests:** You should have some basic IT skills and be interested in computers. You should enjoy and be good at note-taking, problem solving and working with numbers. You should be able to produce clear and accurate written work.

**What does the course lead to?** Many students go on careers connected with IT, becoming for example software or internet engineers, analysts, programmers, system or database administrators.

You could train or teach others to use computer systems, or provide user support. You could work as a technical consultant. You could go into research or management, or into sales of hardware or software.

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