



Information & Communication Technology

Subject leader: Mr R Eaton

Examination Board: WJEC

Desirable GCSE's: ICT Grade C or higher, Mathematics & English Grade C or higher

Course Outline

The Information and Communication Technology course offers a natural progression from GCSE ICT for those students wishing to continue their ICT studies in Years 12 and 13. This course focuses on the use of ICT in business situations and the legal and social implications of the use of ICT in today's society. The non-examined assessments and examinations involve the advanced use of the generic software packages such as Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher and Microsoft PowerPoint to produce business solutions within a realistic context.

Entry Requirements

It is highly desirable that learners have previously studied GCSE ICT and achieved a C grade or higher. However, learners who have achieved a good set of GCSE results not including ICT will also be considered. It is essential that learners who have no prior knowledge of formally studying ICT have a strong interest in this subject.

What will I study?

It should be noted that unlike GCSE ICT, non-examined assessments account for 40% of the final mark and written examinations for 60% of the final mark. **Learners who choose to study ICT at AS and A2 level should expect to spend a minimum of 50% of their lessons studying theory related topics.** The four modules to be studied are as follows. Units 1 and 2 are studied in Year 12 and Units 3 and 4 in Year 13.

IT1 – Information Systems - Examination (2 hours 15 minutes) 120 UMS 24% of the A Level

This written examination comprises of two parts: Section A: written responses to questions based on the theory topics studied and Section B: written responses to questions based on a spreadsheet prepared by the learner before the examination. A copy of the learner's spreadsheet will be provided to them with the examination paper.

IT2 – Presenting Information - Non-examined assessment 80 UMS and 16% of the A Level

Learners complete desktop publishing, multimedia, presentation, animation and video editing tasks within a realistic context to meet the requirements of their chosen organisation.

IT3 – Use and Impact of ICT – Examination (2 hours 30 minutes) 180 UMS 36% of the A Level

For this written examination learners will study a programme of theory topics relating to the use, application and social issues of ICT. For example, Professional 'Codes of Conduct', Change Management, Human Computer Interfaces, Working with ICT and Networks.

IT4 – Relational Database Project – Non-examined assessment 120 UMS 24% of the A Level

Learners step through the systems life cycle. They analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate a solution to a problem of their choice, normally a stock control system, requiring the use of a relational database. This is a substantial piece of work, undertaken over an extended period of time. It is internally assessed and moderated by WJEC.

How will I be assessed?

IT1 Written Paper (2¼ hours) - 24% of A Level marks. IT2 Internal Assessment (non-examined assessment) - 16% of A Level, both will be examined as part of the summer examinations in May/June of Year 12. IT3 Written Paper (2½ hours) - 36% of total A Level marks. IT4 Internal Assessment (non-examined assessment) - 24% of total A Level marks. IT3 and IT4 will both be examined as part of the summer examinations in Year 13.

Career Opportunities and Progression

The course allows you to gain practical skills in ICT in preparation for employment or further study in university, college or in an apprenticeship. ICT is a key skill and as such the skills learned in A Level ICT would be beneficial both in higher and further education and the workplace.