

Applied ICT AS/A level

Introduction

GCE Applied ICT A/S and A level uses work-related contexts and innovative teaching and assessment methods to offer a broad introduction to this vocational area. These courses are intended to attract students who have a keen interest in all aspects of ICT. They place emphasis on the practical application of skills, knowledge and understanding, employing an investigative and problem solving approach to the study of the subject. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by planning their work, conducting research and regularly reviewing their progress. GCE Applied ICT is flexible, meeting the needs of a wide range of students, it involves many different styles of learning throughout the course.

Year 1

There are 3 units studied in the first year of the course to complete the A/S level. Unit 1 Using ICT to Communicate is assessed through portfolio work, it is a very practical unit which covers the use of a range of software eg word-processing, DTP and presentation packages to produce documents to a high standard. Unit 2, How organisations use ICT, is externally assessed using a case study approach. It covers how organisations are structured and their use of ICT to communicate. Unit 3, ICT Solutions for Individuals and Society is assessed through portfolio work. It involves producing a report on the impact of electronic information on individuals and society. It also includes using information retrieved from databases and the internet and then analysing the information using spreadsheets.

Year 2

The second year of the course also involves studying 3 units for the full A level. Two of the units are portfolio assessed, these are Interactive Multimedia Products and Developing and Creating Websites. Interactive Multimedia Products involves research into software used for movie production and the designing and building of a product to meet a client's requirements. The unit on website design involves planning, building and maintaining websites. It looks at the differences in the range of web programming languages available and the network security implications of running web servers. The final unit, 'Working to a Brief' helps to improve your own learning and performance and also your ability to work as a part of a team. It involves the planning, implementation, management and evaluation of an ICT project. This unit is assessed through an external assignment that is set at the beginning of each academic year by the exam board OCR.

Assessment

These courses are particularly suitable for students who prefer a more coursework based approach to learning rather than examinations, although one unit is externally examined in each year.

Specific Entry Criteria

Grade C in English Language.