

Applied GCEs are accredited until 2013

We are updating our Applied GCEs to bring them into line with our new suite of GCEs, and the revised specifications will be for first teaching from September 2009. The changes are relatively minor, mainly to assessment, and you'll find that you don't need to change your current teaching and learning approach to accommodate these changes.

Applied GCE timeline

Sept 2009 Updated specifications available for teaching	Jan 2010 Current style papers used	June 2010 New style papers used	Jan 2011 New style papers used	June 2011 New style papers used	Jan 2012 New style papers used	June 2012 New style papers used	Sept 2012 Last cohort begins 2-year course	Jan 2013 New style papers used	June 2013 New style papers used	Jan 2014 New style papers used	June 2014 New style papers used. Final exam session
--	---------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---

Applied GCEs are now on the same timeline as GCEs. This means they are fully accredited until 2013. Any centres that are running the Applied GCEs can recruit students on a two year programme in September 2011 and 2012, as the last examination for the Applied GCE Specification will be June 2014. We will be offering candidates the opportunity to re-sit for the final time in January 2015 by special arrangement only. You must formally notify the Assessment Leader, in writing, of your intention to enter candidates for the January 2015 session, no later than the end of September 2014. Centres must provide an estimated number of candidates and indicate the papers they wish to sit. Edexcel will then write to you to confirm details of how to enter.

What are the changes?

We will be awarding a new A* grade to allow high-performing students to achieve the grades that they deserve.

With the updated specification, we will also be able to award a new nine-unit qualification. Candidates will be able

to top up from six units, or candidates unable to complete the full 12 units can complete the new nine-unit award.

This will allow them to claim one and a half GCEs and get recognition for all their efforts. The updated specification will state which units need to be completed in order to achieve the nine-unit qualification.

For ICT, Quality of Written Communication has been added to all units and the assessment criteria grids have been updated. External papers and mark schemes have been revised to include Quality of Written Communication where appropriate. The mark scheme for the Quality of Written Communication questions has now changed to a levels-based mark scheme with the Quality of Written Communication statements added in the bands. The content and the assessment guidance for the internal units has been updated where appropriate in the specification. No stretch and challenge has been added as the appropriate questions to accommodate the new A* grade are already present.

When do the new specifications and exam papers come into effect?

You will have received updated specifications and sample assessment materials in June this year so that you can see how the exam papers have been amended. These new-style papers will be first used in the June 2010 exam series, while the current approach will still be used in the January 2010 series.

How can I find out more about what these changes mean to me and my students?

We have also held subject launch events around the country. These events explained and highlighted all the changes to the current specification. If you have any queries, please contact your subject advisor as shown below or use our Ask the Expert service.



Call these numbers to get direct access to a Subject Advisor:	
History	0844 576 0034
MFL	0844 576 0035
PE and Sport	0844 576 0036
Science	0844 576 0037
Geography	0844 372 2185
Art	0844 372 0032
Business	0844 372 2187
ICT	0844 372 2186
Non-UK customers - all subjects	+44 (0)1204 770 696

Applied GCE	Ask the expert e-mail address
Art & Design	gceappliedartanddesign@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Business	gceappliedbusiness@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Health & Social Care	gceappliedhealthandsocialcare@edexcelexperts.co.uk
ICT	gceict@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Leisure Studies	gceappliedleisurestudies@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Performing Arts	gceperformingarts@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Media	gcemedia@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Engineering	gceengineering@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Travel and Tourism	gctravelandtourism@edexcelexperts.co.uk