

Important guidance on achieving better results with your GCE Physics

Welcome back! Last term, we sent you a letter entitled 'Let us help you get better results with your GCE Physics' with a copy of the GCE 2008 - Centre Guidance Document. We appreciate your completing the questionnaire and congratulations to the 4 lucky winners who received their £50 M&S vouchers just in time for Christmas.

If you did not receive a copy of the letter, you can access the letter via <http://www.edexcel.com/notices/Pages/let-physics.aspx>

Key Dates

Key dates for GCE Physics 2008/2009 have been extracted from the Edexcel Information Manual into a one page document that can be downloaded from the GCE Physics subject page.

Unit 3: Exploring Physics

"Core Practical" Record Sheets

The centre guidance document we sent in November gives details of procedures to be followed for Unit 3 and Unit 6 for the new GCE Physics. If you've not received one, it can be downloaded from the GCE Physics homepage via <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/physics/Pages/default.aspx>

Please remember that a Record Sheet should be completed for each student. Record sheets can be downloaded from the GCE Physics homepage via <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/physics/Pages/default.aspx> The document is called "Student Record Sheet - AS" .

Case Study or Visit report

Please use the Tutor Support Material - Guidance for the AS practical assessment on the GCE Physics homepage to help you prepare candidates for the case studies or visit report and to help you assess it. This includes exemplars, guidance for visits and case studies, as well as some ideas for practical assessment.

Please note that documents (marked with an orange diamond) are secure documents therefore you will need your Edexcel Online password to access these. If you're having difficulties accessing secure documents, there is help here: <http://www.edexcel.com/notices/Pages/securecontent-bcp.aspx>

Entry and submission

Remember that there are two options for your Exploring Physics unit 3:

- Option A: centre assessed, moderated by Edexcel (i.e. you mark it and we moderate)
- Option B: externally assessed (i.e. we mark it).

Please make sure that you enter for the correct Option - the entry deadline is 21st March 2009.

Please note that - for both entry Options - the submission date for your moderation sample or complete sample for marking is 15th May 2009.

Consultancy service

Don't forget that until 31st March you can submit up to three examples of your Case study or Visit Reports to us for comments. Details of this service are also on the GCE Physics homepage under the heading 'coursework materials' .

Issue 3 specification /eSpec

It has come to our attention that a small number of centres are still using the original version of the specification (the original version has "September 2007" printed very clearly on the front). A copy of the new specification (Issue 3) was sent in the post in May 2008. Please check that you are using the most up-to-date version of the specification. You can download it from <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/physics/Pages/default.aspx>
The update of the eSpec was completed before Christmas and should be on the website very soon.

External Assessment

The January 2009 exam papers for 6PH01 and 6PH02 are now available on the website. June 2008 exam series past papers and mark schemes can be downloaded for FREE from the secure section of the website, using your Edexcel Online password via <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/ms-summer08.aspx>. Other past papers are usually available for free download via <http://www.edexcel.com/notices/Pages/pp3years.aspx>. Paper copies of all past papers and marks schemes are available through our Publications Department for a small fee. Examiners' reports are always posted on the website and may be downloaded free of charge.

If you have any questions relating to External Assessment, please email the science subject Advisors on ScienceSubjectAdvisor@edexcelexperts.co.uk who will be able to deal with your questions.

INSET training

Due to high demand we have organised a series of additional training events for the spring term.

GCE 08 Physics: Internal Assessment in AS and A2

These events are full day events and will focus on the internal assessed unit 3 and 6 and can count towards 5 hours of CPD. for more information and to book a place on the course, see ? on the website.

Date	Course Code	Title	Location
02/03/2009	8NSP03/12	GCE 08 Physics: Internal Assessment in AS and A2	London
12/03/2009	8NSP03/13	GCE 08 Physics: Internal Assessment in AS and A2	Birmingham
13/03/2009	8NSP03/14	GCE 08 Physics: Internal Assessment in AS and A2	Bristol

We have also organised an online training event for **home centres** to help prepare for unit 3. The chief examiner for Physics who is also the principal examiner for unit 5, Richard Laird will be your trainer at this event.

Date and Time	Event	Code
Tue 24 th Feb 09 16:00 - 17.30	GCE 2008 Physics: Preparing Students for Unit 3- Coursework concerns	8OSM09/01

We have also organised an event for **overseas centres** who are preparing students for the new GCE Physics 2009 unit 1 and 2 examinations as well as the written practical paper.

Date and Time	Event	Code
Tue 3 rd March 09 16:00 - 17.30	Preparing students for the June 2009 Unit 1 and Unit 2 examinations and the written practical paper	8OSM11/01

For more details about this event visit www.edexcel.org.uk/training or call 0844 576 0025 or to book a place, email trainingbookings@edexcel.org.uk

Great Resources for AS and A2

Pearson Longman are gearing up to publish their new books to support both the concept and context (SHAP) approaches for A2, all A2 publications are on track for a May 2009 release. They are also working on a revision guide for AS Physics. Further updates will appear on their website: <http://www.longman.co.uk>. Exam wizard for the issue 3 specification is now available, for more details visit <http://examwizard.testbase.co.uk/sec/pindex.asp>

Edexcel is delighted to work in collaboration with the Salters Horners Advanced Physics (SHAP) project team. The SHAP teaching approach covers Edexcel GCE Physics through real life contexts, for more general information about SHAP see www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/physics

There is an active e-group for teachers who are either using, or interested in knowing more about, the SHAP approach. To join, just send a blank email to shap-subscribe@pearson.com

If you would like to make contact with a SHAP centre near you, please email the SHAP administrator slw5@york.ac.uk

The SHAP team run courses each year for teachers and technicians interested in the SHAP approach. For further details please email the SHAP administrator or visit the SHAP website.

Support Services

Support	Description	Contact
Subject Advisor	Get your questions on implementing the specification answered by Stephen Nugus a science specialist.	Call 0844 576 0037 or email ScienceSubjectAdvisor@edexcelExperts.co.uk
Ask the Expert	Provides direct contact to a senior examiner for Physics so you can ask questions on units and topics and get an authoritative answer. To get a fast response to your question, please identify the unit and topic in the subject box of your email.	Email gcePhysics@edexcelExperts.co.uk
Ask Edexcel	Queries on the general administration of the specification can be found on via Ask Edexcel this includes information on entries and submitting coursework	http://www.edexcel.com/askedexcel
SHAP Website	Teachers using the context led approach (SHAP) can find helpful guidance, resources and support on this website	www.york.ac.uk/org/seg/salters/physics
Edexcel Online Helpdesk	For help with enquires about online services including Edexcel online and Results plus	Call 0844 576 0024
Physics subject page on Edexcel.com	The new website www.edexcel.com have subject specific pages where you can access all the information you need to implement the specification	http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/physics/Pages/default.aspx