

news

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GCSE English Pilot Newsletter

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October 2008

Key Dates

Winter 2009 Examination Series

8 Sep 2008	2008 / 2009 Materials release on Microsite - Units 1B, 2A, 3, 4 and 5
21 Oct	Final date for on-time entries for winter 2009 series
6 Oct	Release of 1B Assessment
6 Oct - 1st Dec	1B Assessment Window
10 Jan 2009	Deadline for candidate marks for units 1A, 1B, 2B, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to be submitted online and sent to moderator
14 Jan	Unit 6 Examination (afternoon)
22 Jan	Unit 2A Examination (morning)
12 March	Electronic results made available
19 March	Publication of provisional examination results (hard copy format)
14 April	Final date for enquiries about results

Summer 2009 Examination Series

5 Jan 2009	Release on the website of unit 1B pre-release materials, the named texts for task 1 and 3, unit 2A selected act, unit 3, unit 4 selected genre, unit 5 (please note that unit 1B pre-release materials will also be sent to centres on CD)
21 March	Final date for on-time entries for summer 2009 series
15 May	Deadline for candidate marks for units 1A, 1B, 2B, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to be submitted online and sent to moderator
19 May	Unit 6 Examination (morning) (Provisional)
4 June	Unit 2A Examination (afternoon) (Provisional)

Key Issues

Unit 1b Erratum Notice

Centres currently taking the 1b assessment will be aware of an erratum notice that has recently been sent concerning a slight change to the assessment. If any centre has not received this, please contact the pilots team immediately at English.Pilot@Edexcel.org.uk. A communication regarding the 1b assessment and the February - March 2009 assessment window will be circulated to centres in December.

Unit 1B & 5 - comparable skills

Unit 1b, which focuses you on the skills of reading and writing, was first designed to be the building block on which other units stand. The task of "reading into" a text is fairly broad, as is the skill of appreciating audience and purpose in writing. In other words this unit pinpoints the core skills in English that can then be explored in more specific settings in the other units.

Have you ever thought how similar the Unit 1b and Unit 5 mark schemes are? When you look to what it takes to achieve a Band 3 in 1b in reading it sounds a lot like the *select, identify and comment* of a Band 3 Unit 5 response. Unit 5 takes the core skills you have just taught in 1b and gives the specific context of digital texts. So, when you are looking at a blog you consider its audience, its purpose, you consider the form it has taken and then you ask: how have the choices of the writer been used to have an appropriate effect?

In the coming weeks we will be doing some work to map out the skills of Unit 1b against those in Unit 5. You might want to keep checking the Pilot website to see this when it appears.

Unit 5 - Guidance and Help for Centres

Just before the end of the summer term, Edexcel spent some time with a group of pilot centres who are teaching Unit 5: 'The Language of Digital Communication'. This session sought to bring to light some recommended teaching practice, suitable sources of information on the web and tips on presentation. This information is available in full on the Pilot microsite at <http://englishpilot.edexcel.org.uk/home/support-guidance/unit5/>. Please note that it is intended as a guide for centres and should not be interpreted as the only way to teach Unit 5. This document can be used in addition to the training sessions detailed below.

Training Sessions

These events ensure you are fully standardised for the units you offer through work with the Principal Examiners and other schools on the Pilot.

To book your place on these events please follow this link <http://englishpilot.edexcel.org.uk/home/training-materials/events/> or call 0844 576 0027.

Event	Title	Date	Location
8NEA25/01	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2A & 6 - Feedback & Standardisation	07/11/2008	London
8NEA25/02	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2A & 6 - Feedback & Standardisation	26/11/2008	Manchester
8NEA25/03	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2A & 6 - Feedback & Standardisation	03/12/2008	Birmingham
8NEP07/01	GCSE English Pilot Unit 3 - Feedback & Standardisation	07/11/2008	London
8NEP07/03	GCSE English Pilot Unit 3 - Feedback & Standardisation	26/11/2008	Birmingham
8NEP08/02	GCSE English Pilot Unit 4 - Feedback & Standardisation	11/11/2008	Birmingham
8NEP08/03	GCSE English Pilot Unit 4 - Feedback & Standardisation	14/11/2008	London
8NEP09/01	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2B & 7 - Feedback & Standardisation	19/11/2008	London
8NEP09/02	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2B & 7 - Feedback & Standardisation	26/11/2008	Manchester
8NEP09/03	GCSE English Pilot Unit 2B & 7 - Feedback & Standardisation	27/11/2008	Birmingham

QCA Evaluation of the Pilot

QCA will soon be publishing its evaluation of the English Pilot on its website. This is a comprehensive review of the pilot conducted with the assistance of many centres and candidates, for which we are very grateful. Please take the opportunity to read the report when it is available.

QCA Consultation on GCSE English 2010

We would like to thank those centres who took the time to respond to QCA on the proposed subject criteria. Your comments certainly helped to raise the issues that are important to pilot centres in the future development of GCSE English.

English Pilot Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations (ICE) Coursework document

Following feedback from centres, we are currently preparing an ICE document dedicated towards the English pilot. This will cover Units 1a, 1b, 2b, 3, 4, 5 and 7 and will be distributed to centres during November and available on the microsite.

Key Links and Contact Details

ResultsPlus: easy analysis of candidates' results

ResultsPlus: www.edexcel.org.uk/resultsplus

Examzone: <http://www.examzone.co.uk/home/>

Edexcel Online: <http://www.edexcelonline.co.uk/web2/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fDefault.aspx>

Do we know how to contact you?

If you are no longer the person to whom all GCSE English pilot information should be sent, or you have changed your email address please contact English.pilot@edexcel.org.uk to update us.

Who's who...

If you have any queries about the GCSE English Pilot please get in touch. To contact the team directly please email English.pilot@edexcel.org.uk or call 0844 576 0027.

The Pilots team

Peter Harris - Pilots Project Manager

Emma Hill - Pilots Project Coordinator

The Examining team

Hayley Read - Qualification Delivery Assessment Manager

Mark Howlett - Coursework Manager

Jennifer Greatrex - Portfolio Manager