

Enclosed with this issue of *AQA Examinations Update* are two copies of a poster giving details of subject contributions for display in staff room areas.

### Bengali (3636)

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

### Business Studies B (3133)

### Business Studies B (Short Course) (3139)

The Case Study for Paper 1, for both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, has in the past been provided in a separate booklet. You are advised that with effect from the June 2006 examination series this will no longer be the case. The Case Study will now be included within the Question Paper / Answer booklet. The data will still be presented in separate sections but these will now be given before the relevant questions within the Question Paper / Answer booklet. This will not affect the nature of the questions that will be set in the papers.

### French A (3651)

### French A (Short Course) (3657)

### French B (Modular) (3652)

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Please note that the new specification MFL Module 2 tests (46502, 46602 and 46902) take place in the week beginning 15 May. The equivalent modules for the existing MFL specifications (36502, 36602 and 36902) take place in the week beginning 26 June. Please make sure that colleagues in the relevant subject departments are aware of the two sets of tests available in 2006 and that candidates are given the correct dates for the tests for which they are entered.

## Subject Information

### GCSE Examinations

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**French B (Modular) (4652)**  
**German B (Modular) (4662)**  
**Spanish B (Modular) (4692)**

GCSE

### Speaking Coursework Module 1

You are advised that when assessing Module 1 Speaking Coursework for the revised specification, the following relationship between marks for **Communication**, **Development** and **Quality of Language** must be adhered to:

Mark for Communication	Max. Marks for Development	Max. Marks for Quality of Language
0	0	0
1-6	0-2	1-8
7-12	0-4	1-16
13-18	0-6	1-20
19-24	0-8	1-24

All centres were informed of this requirement, by post, in October 2005 and it was highlighted at the Teacher Support meetings held during September/October 2005. These meetings were offered, free of charge, to all registered centres. A grid showing the relationship between **Communication** and **Development** marks appears in section 22.3 of the specification. The grid which appears above is an expanded version and replaces the version in the original revised specification. The full specification may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**German A (3661)**  
**German A (Short Course) (3667)**  
**German B (Modular) (3662)**

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the General Conversation, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**Information and Communication Technology A (3521)****Information and Communication Technology A (Short Course) (3527)**

You are reminded that an order form to request material for the AQA-set assignment component (3521/7/C) for the 2007 examination was enclosed with March Issue 22 of *AQA Examinations Update* and may also be downloaded from the *Publications* section of the AQA Website.

**Media Studies (3571)**

You are advised that the dates and locations for coursework standardising meetings for new and regressed centres have been arranged and details are available to view from the *GCSE Media Studies Noticeboard* page of the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Please contact the subject department **on** 01483 477792 or **by e-mail**: [mediastudies@aqa.org.uk](mailto:mediastudies@aqa.org.uk) if you require a booking form, stating your centre number and GCSE Media Studies coursework standardising meetings.

**Modern Hebrew (3676)**

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**Punjabi (3681)**

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**Polish (3686)**

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

## Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

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### Psychology (3181)

#### Revised coursework assessment criteria

You are advised that skill **C2: Data analysis of the coursework assessment criteria** has been revised for 2006, in response to comments from teachers that this is quite a demanding skill at GCSE level. Previously for three marks to be awarded in this section, justification for the calculations had to be present. With effect from 2006, the requirement for the award of four marks for this skill will be:

**at least two appropriate descriptive statistics presented including evidence of one calculation.**

It is hoped that this change will be to the benefit of candidates.

Details of the revision and a copy of the revised assessment criteria were despatched to all centres in September 2005 from the subject department.

### Spanish A (3691)

### Spanish A (Short Course) (3697)

### Spanish B Modular (3692)

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

### Urdu (3646)

Following the programme of GCSE Speaking Test support meetings held in spring 2005 a set of suggested questions for the **General Conversation**, targeted at different ability ranges, has been produced. These questions were put together by practising teachers and may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**Accounting (5121) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Accounting (6121) Advanced**

For the January 2006 and subsequent examinations, AQA is making a number of changes to the **format of question papers** in all subjects to make them more user-friendly. A poster detailing the changes was issued to centres with September Issue 24 of *AQA Examinations Update*. As there are significant changes to the layout of GCE Accounting question papers, a specimen AS question paper (ACC1) and a specimen A2 question paper (ACC5) are available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

These specimen papers have been created by putting the June 2004 question papers into the new format. The main change is that the data provided to candidates will in future be boxed, rather than the tasks they are required to answer. This change will bring GCE Accounting into line with other AQA subjects.

New versions of the **specification for examinations in 2006** (version 1.2) **and 2007** (version 1.1) may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Changes of wording relating to **ACC2** appear on pages 9 and 20 and are sidelined. The new wordings arose from comments made by teachers at six centres on the June 2005 question papers. The re-wordings are intended to clarify aspects of the assessment.

**Applied Art and Design (8511) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Applied Art and Design (Double Award) (8513) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Applied Art and Design (8516) Advanced**  
**Applied Art and Design (Double Award) (8519) Advanced**

You are advised that this specification is now available for teaching purposes. The specification, specimen assessment materials and *Teachers' Guide* may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. Alternatively, copies may be obtained from AQA's Publications department. Further materials will be added as they become available.

Centres wishing to enter candidates in June 2006 for Advanced Subsidiary **Unit 3: Working to a brief** and **Unit 5: Professional practice, communication and meaning**, should have completed an *Estimated Entries Form* by 10 October 2005 to ensure that they receive the *Teachers' Notes* and *Candidate Guidance* which will be despatched during January 2006. If an *Estimate of Entry* has not been made, please contact AQA Entries **on** 0161 455 5482 or **by fax** 0161 455 5408.

For further information about the specification, support materials, Portfolio Advisers and arrangements for visiting moderation, please contact the subject department **on** 01483 477775 or **by e-mail**: art@aqa.org.uk

## Subject Information

GCE Examinations

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**Applied Business (8611)/8613) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Applied Business (Double Award) (8613) Advanced Subsidiary**

### Unit 3: BS03 Financial Planning and Monitoring

Please note the following points regarding the GCE Applied Business BS03 examination:

- the pre-release material (which is issued 10 weeks prior to the examination) will be repeated in the question paper. Centres, therefore, will not receive a separate copy of the pre-release material in the examination
- candidates must not take their copy of the pre-release material into the examination.

**Biology A 5411 Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Biology (Human) A 5413 Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Biology A 6411 Advanced**  
**Biology (Human) A 6413 Advanced**

### Changes to AS/A2 Coursework criteria: Missing Evidence

You are reminded that in accordance with the specification, evidence for all skills must now be provided. You are advised that a mark of zero must be awarded for any skill for which the requisite evidence cannot be provided. You are also advised that useful feedback on the changes is provided in the *AQA Examiners' Report* which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

**English Language B (5706) Advanced Subsidiary**

### ENB2

The topic, **Language and Power**, will be replaced in **January 2006**. The replacement topic, **Language and Occupational Groups**, will be first examined in **January 2006**. Please refer to the 2006 specification for details which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

Topics for January and June 2006 Examinations:

- English Dialects of the British Isles
- Language and Technology
- Language and Occupational Groups

Please note, there will be a re-sit opportunity in January 2006 for candidates wishing to answer a question on Language and Power. This question will **only** be available for re-sit candidates.

**English Language and Literature A (5721) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**English Language and Literature A (6721) Advanced**

You are reminded that the text changes that come into effect from the January 2007 examination were given in Issues 23 and 24, June and September of *AQA Examinations Update*.

**NTA5**

You are reminded that *King Lear* is being introduced onto this unit for examination from January 2006. The edition of this text recommended by AQA is the New Penguin edition due to it being widely available with a helpful introduction. However, in this edition the name of the character **Goneril** is spelt **Gonerill**. There is no clear reason why this is the case as other editions of *King Lear* spell this character's name with only one 'l'. AQA advises centres that when extracts of this text are printed in the NTA5 examination paper that the name **Goneril** will be printed with one 'l' rather than two as this is the recognised traditional spelling of the name. Centres are asked to please ensure that candidates are aware of this.

**English Language and Literature B (5726) Advanced Subsidiary**  
**English Language and Literature B (6726) Advanced**

You are reminded that the text changes that come into effect from the January 2007 examination were given in Issues 23 and 24, June and September of *AQA Examinations Update*.

**NTB2**

You are reminded that from January 2006 onwards there will be a slight development of the wording of bullet point four of the generic question on this unit. As of January 2006 the wording will read:

How far you think the ideas, attitudes and values in **each extract** are characteristic of those found in the **whole text**.

The intention behind this change is to expand and clarify the bullet point so as to make it more accessible to candidates.

Further information on the format of the question paper for NTB2 from June 2006 onwards was given in Issues 23 and 24, June and September, of *AQA Examinations Update*.

You are also reminded that as of January 2006 NTB2 will be marked out of 50, rather than out of 35 as it has been until last summer 2005. Centres were informed of this change by way of a newsletter to all centres dated 20 April 2005.

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GCE Examinations

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### NTB5

You are reminded that **from June 2006 onwards** there will be a change to the layout of the NTB5 question paper for Question 2. Centres will be aware that the present layout is such that candidates are given Questions 2(a) and 2(b) on the same page which are then followed by Texts A and B for Question 2(a) and Texts C and D for Question 2(b). From June 2006 the layout will change so that Question 2(a) will be given first and followed by Texts A and B, and then Question 2(b) will be given and followed by Texts C and D. The intention behind this change is to ensure that if candidates choose to answer Question 2(b) on Texts C and D, that they will not then have to keep turning over multiple pages between the question page and the pages with the texts on, but instead will have the question more conveniently followed by its relevant texts.

### NTB6

You are reminded that as of summer 2005's NTB6 examination and from hereon the number of texts included in the pre-release material for this unit will total between five and eight. The number of texts has been reduced because it is felt to be more beneficial to candidates to provide them with fewer texts to prepare more thoroughly in the preparation time they are given of one week.

You are also advised that from June 2006 onwards, there will be a change to the wording of question 2 of NTB6.

The question currently states:

Explain the methods you chose to compare the texts and **say** how useful these were in contributing to your understanding of and response to the texts.

From June 2006 the question will read:

Explain the methods you chose to compare the texts and show how useful these were in contributing to your understanding of and response to the texts.

The intention behind this slight change is to further clarify the question for candidates.

If you have any queries regarding any of the above please contact the subject department on 01483 556074

French (5651) Advanced Subsidiary  
 French (6651) Advanced  
 German (5661) Advanced Subsidiary  
 German (6661) Advanced  
 Spanish (5696) Advanced Subsidiary  
 Spanish (6696) Advanced

### Unit 3T and 3V (FR3T, FR3V, GR3T, GR3V, SP3T, SP3V)

#### Part One: Response to Stimulus Material

You are advised that in response to queries from centres about the use of the five printed questions, the following clarification is issued:

- examiners should ask for elaboration/clarification immediately after the candidate's initial answer to their first question only where it is deemed to be too brief. For example, if the stimulus is about the dangers of mobile phones and the candidate's initial answer is 'it's about mobile phones', then the examiner would ask for elaboration/clarification. A response of no more than a couple of sentences would be expected
- the second, third, fourth and fifth questions must be asked in the order in which they are printed on the card with no intervening questions. If examiners wish to follow up candidates' responses to their questions this can be done only after question five
- as the discussion widens after the final printed question, it should follow on logically from the stimulus material. Opportunities to score high marks will arise from a logical progression from discussion of the stimulus material itself to discussion of the wider topic area. Candidates are unlikely to achieve marks in the higher bands unless they provide evidence that they can develop ideas fully. Examiners who allow candidates to deliver only pre-learnt material will prevent candidates from providing evidence of developing ideas fully.

### Unit 5W (FR5W, GR5W, SP5W)

#### Set Texts

In June Issue 23 of the *AQA Examinations Update* centres were advised of the set text changes which will come into effect from the June 2007 examination.

Please note that there will **not** be a re-sit opportunity on the set texts being withdrawn (last examination in June 2006).

## Subject Information

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#### Law (5161) Advanced Subsidiary Law (6161) Advanced

The University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education is hosting an annual conference for teachers of AS/A Level Law in spring 2006 at Madingley Hall, Cambridge, on Thursday 6 April and Friday 7 April 2006. If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education:

**Tel:** 01954 280280 (280245/280248 direct)

**Fax:** 01954 280200

**E-mail:** [alevel@cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alevel@cont-ed.cam.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk)

The deadline for bookings is the first week in March 2006, and early booking is advised as places are limited.

#### Media Studies (5571) Advanced Subsidiary Media Studies (6571) Advanced

You are reminded that the stimulus material for **Unit One: Reading the Media** (MED1) in January 2006 will be in **print format**.

You are also reminded that the stimulus material for **Unit Six: Comparative Critical Analysis** (MED6) in January 2006 will be in **print format**.

#### Philosophy (5171) Advanced Subsidiary Philosophy (6171) Advanced

### Synoptic Unit (PLY6)

You are reminded that titles for the 2006 and 2007 PLY6 unit are available in the 2006 and 2007 specifications which may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. These and further information about the rough notes were also included in Issues 23 and 24, June and September of *AQA Examinations Update* if you need to refer back to these items.

In order to construct questions that focus on central issues and provide a range of different questions from year to year it is not always possible to pair AS and A2 texts/themes together. The specification states that in order to ensure a broad range of topics, some essays invite candidates to compare the work of more than one philosopher from Module 3 or Module 5. PLY6 is a distinctive kind of assessment and examiners are looking for work that engages with the opportunity the unit provides to explore ideas and arguments.

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GCE Examinations

The deadline for submission of the essays and notes to the allocated external examiner is **15 May**.

You are reminded that *Candidate Record Forms* for the synoptic essay (PLY6) may be downloaded from the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework Administration* section of the AQA Website, if you do not have a copy.

## Subject Information

### Key Skills

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Basic Skills (8990)  
Key Skills (9900) (for KS2004)  
Key Skills (8900) (for KS2000)  
Wider Key Skills (9970) (for KS2004)  
Wider Key Skills (8970) (for KS 2000)

### New proxy qualifications

The following qualifications now have proxy status for the key skills test and/or portfolio:

- Edexcel Level 2 Award in Digital Applications for IT users - proxy for test and portfolio
- Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications for IT users - proxy for test and portfolio
- Edexcel Level 2 Diploma in Digital Applications for IT users - proxy for test and portfolio
- OCR Level 2 Certificate for IT Users (CLAiT Plus) - proxy for test only.
- OCR Level 3 Certificate for IT Users (Advanced CLAiT) - proxy for test only.

Please note that these qualifications can only be used as proxies from September 2005. The full list of proxies is available from the QCA Website ([www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk)).

### ICT tests Level three and four data files

You are advised that a new set of data files for 2005/6 were placed on the QCA Website for downloading on 31st August 2005. You should delete the data files you downloaded for 2004/05 and replace them with the updated set. **It is essential that you remove the 2004/05 set from your network as although the data files may be the same as for last year, new scenarios have been added and some deleted.**

You may download all the data files from the QCA Website ([http://www.qca.org.uk/603\\_1824.html](http://www.qca.org.uk/603_1824.html)) and make them available to candidates, in read-only form, as early as possible in the course to help candidates develop practical skills in preparation for the tests. You are reminded that candidates must not be given prior knowledge of which data files are to be used in any of the tests; this is to ensure that their preparation is broadly based rather than focused on a particular context.

### AQA Administration Handbook 2005/6

This is available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website. In addition to the information contained in the previous edition, the new Key Skills timetable and the updated proxy list are included.

### Wider Key Skills

The Wider Key Skills now have qualification status and are on the National Framework.

You are reminded that each portfolio submitted for moderation must be accompanied by the *Part A Record Form* which records the candidate's responses to oral questions. The entry codes KSWO, KSPS and KSLP are no longer in use and have been replaced by YSWO (Working with Others), YSPS (Problem Solving) and YSLP (Improving own Learning and Performance).

The AQA *Administration Handbook* (2005 onwards) for the Wider Key Skills is now available from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

### Application of Number Level 3

As from January 2006 an extra fifteen minutes reading time will be allowed for Application of Number Level 3 in addition to the usual test duration of the 30 minutes.

### Centre standardising meetings

Centres which did not attend the centre standardising meetings in November and December 2005 are reminded that a further round of meetings will be held in the spring term. These meetings provide training for teachers of the three main Key Skills in portfolio requirements and interpretation of the Standards.

## Subject Information

### Entry Level Certificate

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#### Revised ICT (4952)

Centres are reminded that the current Entry Level Certificates in ICT (Specifications A and B) will be examined for the last time in 2006 and a revised specification will be examined from 2007. This revised specification, to be awarded at Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, attracts points for inclusion in league tables and funding through Local Education Authorities or the Learning and Skills Council. It also offers:

- all students the opportunity to gain an ICT qualification, even those unlikely to reach Grade G at GCSE
- learning and assessment opportunities for students where GCSE ICT is not appropriate
- an extension to the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stage 3
- the opportunity for students to solve simple problems through the use of ICT
- an opportunity for ELC ICT to be delivered within the teaching of other National Curriculum subjects, e.g. GCSE.

The specification and externally-set assessment tasks booklet may be viewed and/or downloaded from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

## Subject Information

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## Other AQA Examinations and Tests for Special Purposes

## JET SET

You are advised that a new set of specimen papers and mark schemes, covering all seven levels of JET SET, has been produced.

Although the JET SET specification has not altered, the revised papers include a number of amendments suggested by centres and senior examiners.

For further information please contact the subject department **by e-mail:** [jetset@aqa.org.uk](mailto:jetset@aqa.org.uk)