

Subject Information

GCSE Examinations

17

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

GCSE

Module 2 and Module 4 Listening Tests

Please remind colleagues in your MFL subject department that with effect from summer 2008, the Listening Tests for this specification will be provided on CDs. Although CDs will be the default medium, you will also be given the opportunity, until further notice, to request the Listening Tests on cassette tapes. Examination Officers in all registered centres will have received notification of the new arrangements during the Spring Term, 2007.

(**NB** GCSE Specification A (Linear Full and Short Courses) Modern Foreign Languages Listening Tests and GCE Listening Tests will continue to be provided on cassette tapes only.)

Media Studies (3571)

Please note that the Controlled Test topic for 2008 is **Television Situation Comedy**.

The Controlled Test topic for 2009 will be **Quiz Shows**.

Further guidance for the Controlled Test topics is available to view and/or download from the *Qualifications/Media Studies/Guidance* section of the AQA Website.

Science A 4461
Biology 4411
Chemistry 4421
Physics 4451

On-screen tests available

As you are probably aware, we have made the objective tests for these specifications available both as paper-based and as on-screen tests. The first on-screen tests in 2006/7 were very successful, and you are invited to consider using this form of assessment in your centre.

A flyer giving further information about GCSE Science A on-screen tests is **enclosed with this issue of AQA Examinations Update**. The same tests can contribute to the assessment for GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Law (5161) Advanced Subsidiary
Law (6161) Advanced

LAW5 – The Fraud Act 2006

Following the enactment and implementation of the Fraud Act 2006, Paragraph 14.4 of the subject content of the 2008 specification has been amended and reads as follows:

Fraud Fraud (s1 Fraud Act 2006), fraud by false representation (s2 Fraud Act 2006), and by failure to disclose (s3 Fraud Act 2006), and by abuse of position (s4 Fraud Act 2006).

Obtaining services dishonestly (s11 Fraud Act 2006).

From January 2008 onwards, candidates will be expected to explain and apply the relevant Fraud Act 2006 offences and not the now-repealed deception offences under the Theft Acts 1968 and 1978.

Leisure Studies (8641) Advanced Subsidiary
Leisure Studies (Double Award) (8643) Advanced Subsidiary
Leisure Studies (8646) Advanced
Leisure Studies (Double Award) (8649) Advanced

Teachers' Guide

Section 4.3 *Management of the 6-hour assignments* has been amended to clarify instructions for dealing with preparatory folders. The amended paragraphs are highlighted with vertical black lines on the website version of the *Teachers' Guide*.

Teacher Support

A programme of support sessions for A2 units will take place in the autumn term, for which details are available on the *Events Booking* section of the AQA Website. These sessions will provide feedback from the June examination series and guidance on delivery of both examined and portfolio units.

Portfolio standardisation

AS and A2 standardisation meetings for portfolio units will also be held in the autumn term. These are compulsory for centres whose assessments are out of tolerance in summer 2007. Representatives from centres teaching the specification for the first time in autumn 2007 should also attend one of these meetings. For further details, contact the Subject Department at leisurerec-andtourism@aqa.org.uk

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

19

Mathematics (6361) Advanced
 Further Mathematics (5371) Advanced Subsidiary
 Further Mathematics (6371) Advanced

Please note that AQA will withdraw the coursework option for the A2 units Mechanics 2 and Statistics 2 from 2009. The following units will therefore be withdrawn from the January 2009 examination series onwards:

- Mechanics 2 (with coursework) MM2A
- Statistics 2 (with coursework) MS2A

There are no plans to discontinue the coursework options from Mechanics 1 or Statistics 1.

Philosophy (6171) Advanced
 Philosophy (5171) Advanced Subsidiary

Synoptic Study: PLY6

The titles for the 2008 and 2009 PLY6 units are given below. The titles are also listed in the 2008 and 2009 specifications, which are available to read/download from the *Qualifications* section of the AQA Website.

You are reminded that the deadline for submission of the essays and notes to the allocated external examiner is **15 May**.

Please also note that *Candidate Record Forms* for the synoptic essay (PLY6) are available to download from the *Administration/Procedures/Coursework Administration* section of the AQA Website, if you do not have a copy.

The twelve acceptable titles for the **2008** examination are:

2008

Alternative A: Comparative Study

- Compare, contrast and evaluate Nietzsche's and Mill's assessment of conventional morality.
- Compare, contrast and evaluate Plato and Aristotle on human well-being.
- Compare, contrast and evaluate Descartes and Russell on the external world.
- Compare, contrast and evaluate Marx & Engels and Sartre on human freedom.
- Compare, contrast and evaluate Plato and Nietzsche on authority.
- Compare, contrast and evaluate Descartes and Hume on certainty.

2008**Alternative B: Complementary Study**

- g. Explain and discuss Aristotle's account of human nature.
- h. Explain and discuss Hume's contribution to the free-will problem.
- i. Explain and discuss Ayer's challenge to the philosophy of religion.
- j. Explain and discuss Russell's assessment of the debate between rationalism and empiricism.
- k. Explain and discuss Marx and Engels' contribution to the philosophy of the social sciences.
- l. Explain and discuss Sartre's understanding of the implications of atheism.

The twelve acceptable titles for the **2009** examination are:

2009**Alternative A: Comparative Study**

- a. Compare, contrast and evaluate Descartes and Hume on knowledge of the external world.
- b. Compare, contrast and evaluate Marx & Engels with Mill on social progress.
- c. Compare, contrast and evaluate Aristotle and Sartre on making moral decisions.
- d. Compare, contrast and evaluate Marx and Engels with Nietzsche on religion.
- e. Compare, contrast and evaluate Plato and Mill on the relation between individual and society.
- f. Compare, contrast and evaluate Ayer and Sartre on the nature of evaluative discourse.

2009**Alternative B: Complementary Study**

- g. Explain and discuss Ayer's view on the nature and role of philosophy.
- h. Explain and discuss Nietzsche on 'truth'.
- i. Explain and discuss Descartes' account of the mind and mentality.
- j. Explain and discuss Russell's account of the role and nature of universals.
- k. Explain and discuss Hume on empiricism and its implications.
- l. Explain and discuss Plato's criticisms of democracy.

Subject Information

GCE Examinations

21

Travel and Tourism (8651) Advanced Subsidiary
Travel and Tourism (Double Award) (8653) Advanced Subsidiary
Travel and Tourism (8656) Advanced
Travel and Tourism (Double Award) (8659) Advanced

Teachers' Guide

Section 4.3 *Management of the 6-hour assignments* has been amended to clarify instructions for dealing with preparatory folders. The amended paragraphs are highlighted with vertical black lines on the website version of the *Teachers' Guide*.

Teacher Support

A programme of support sessions for A2 units will take place in the autumn term, for which details are available on the *Events Booking* section of the AQA Website. These sessions will provide feedback from the June examination series and guidance on delivery of both examined and portfolio units.

Portfolio standardisation

AS and A2 standardisation meetings for portfolio units will also be held in the autumn term. These are compulsory for centres whose assessments are out of tolerance in summer 2007. Representatives from centres teaching the specification for the first time in autumn 2007 should also attend one of these meetings. For further details, contact the Subject Department **at** travel-andtourism@aqa.org.uk

Basic Skills (8990)
 Key Skills (9900) (KS2004)
 Wider Key Skills (9970) (KS2004)

Key Skills Information and Communication Technology test Level 3

Please note that the QCA data files, which should be downloaded by the centre from www.qca.org.uk for use in the Key Skills Information and Communication Technology test Level 3, should be made available to candidates throughout the year for practice. AQA encourages the use of these data files to support the teaching and learning of skills required in the test. *However, candidates must not be given prior knowledge of which data files are to be used in any specific test window.*

The front page of the ICT Level 3 test paper specifies the scenario name (folder) and associated data files which are to be used in the test. Whilst all the Level 3 scenarios (folders) should be present in the test area in a read-only format, it is important to note that candidates **use only the data files associated with the specified scenario** (i.e. in the folder with that name) stated on the paper and should not search for other data files. During the test, candidates must not have access to files other than the test QCA data files.

Basic, Key and Wider Key Skills Newsletter

The new newsletter for Basic, Key and Wider Key Skills is now on the AQA Website www.aqa.org.uk. If you currently teach any of these skills, please send us articles, teaching tips and examples of good practice for future editions that you would like to share with other centres. We welcome your ideas and any information that you think would be useful to other teachers of AQA Basic Skills, Key Skills and Wider Key Skills.

If you wish to receive the newsletter and updates by e-mail, please **e-mail** the Key Skills team at keyskills@aqa.org.uk with your details with 'NEWS' in the subject line. If you wish to propose an article for submission in the newsletter, please **e-mail** it to keyskills@aqa.org.uk with 'ARTICLE' in the subject line.

Wider Key Skills Part A Record Form

The *Wider Key Skills Part A Record Form* will now be known as the *Part A Record Book* to avoid confusion with the *Candidate Record Form*. All relevant references on the website and within the Wider Key Skills documents have been amended accordingly. Apart from this minor change, the *Part A Record Book* remains identical in content to the previous *Part A Record Form*.

Functional Skills

AQA is developing Functional Skills in line with QCA requirements. To keep up to date with developments you can read and download the *AQA Functional Skills News* available from the *Developments/Functional Skills* section of the AQA Website. Other information about new developments is posted regularly. If you have any queries, you can use our website to send your questions to us directly.