

Circular S/IF/44/13

June 2013

To: The Principals of Post Primary schools and Directors of Colleges of Further Education

For circulation to: Principals and Examinations Officers

Revisions to Occupational Studies (OS) Qualifications

The review of OS qualifications has been completed and the revised specifications will be available from September 2013 (first teaching). The revised work took account of the role these qualifications play in many post-primary schools in ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum offer for all learners at Key Stage 4. OS qualifications have a significant role in populating the 'Applied' offer within the Entitlement Framework (EF).

Rationalisation of OS units

The revised OS qualifications are offered at Levels 1 and 2 across six occupational areas. The number of units has been reduced from over 80 to around 50 to ensure coherence and relevance within occupational groupings. Limited duplication of units across the groupings has been allowed.

Grading

Grading has been introduced with the benefit of providing these qualifications with increased status. A grading model, using Pass/Merit/Distinction, with notional equivalencies to GCSE grades (see table below), has been developed. This is also available to view at: www.ccea.org.uk >Accreditation >Guidance >OS Guidance >Grading. Awards using this grading model will be made from Summer 2014.

Occupational Studies Level	Grade	GCSE Notional Equivalency
Level 2	Distinction/ Distinction*	A/A*
	Merit	B
	Pass	C
Level 1	Distinction	D
	Merit	E
	Pass	F/G
Unclassified		

Guidance

Case studies have been produced to illustrate the variety of pathways available to learners taking OS qualifications. Included in the guidance are sample units to support progression in the skills of Communication, Using Maths and Using ICT.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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