

GCSE BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

Whether you already teach our existing GCSE Business and Communication Systems specification, or are considering offering the course for the first time, we aim to provide both you and your students with the resources you need to achieve excellence in the study of Business and Communication Systems.

Our revised specification, comprising of two externally assessed and one internally assessed unit, gives students the opportunity to study skills that are useful in a diverse range of employment, emphasising the use of practical ICT that enhances business activity. It reflects the ways in which market environments are changing because of ICT, for example the rise of e-business.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

The GCSE Business and Communication Systems specification is made up of three units as follows:

- Unit 1: Software Applications for Business (one external computer-based examination);
- Unit 2: The Business Environment (one external written examination); and
- Unit 3: Developing Digital Solutions (controlled assessment).

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

A GCSE in Business and Communication Systems helps students to:

- develop a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of business subjects that could potentially lead to related further study and employment;
- develop skills and understanding in the use of software applications and how to apply them to enhance business through digital solutions; and
- understand how business is changing because of digital technology.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Through this course, students will:

- improve communication skills by learning how to write reports, give presentations, and participate in discussions, debates and interviews;
- apply mathematical concepts to problem-solving strategies, and interpret, analyse and present data in a range of simulated and real-life contexts;
- use ICT in a wide range of contexts to access, manage, select and present information;
- develop their planning, time management and self-evaluation skills;
- learn from others through discussion, group work and shared tasks; and
- increase their use of critical analysis, learn to express their ideas and opinions, and make decisions and be able justify them.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

This qualification is suitable for students who have limited exposure to business or digital technology. Unit 3 of the specification (controlled assessment) has a new title: Developing Digital Solutions. There is the opportunity to make use of the skills developed in Unit 1 and Unit 2 as well as the opportunity to plan and develop a digital solution for business.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
Unit 1: Software Applications for Business	External computer-based examination 2 hours Students complete tasks using a range of software applications.	40%
Unit 2: The Business Environment	External written examination 1 hour Students complete a number of structured questions.	35%
Unit 3: Developing Digital Solutions	Controlled assessment Students project manage and develop a digital solution for a given problem within a business context. Teacher marked and CCEA moderated	25%

*The information in this table is still subject to regulatory approval.



SUPPORTING YOU

In person

As your local awarding organisation, we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer if you would like to arrange for us to visit you and your department.

At teacher-focused events

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support the specification, which includes:

- FREE launch events to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will issue invitations to heads of departments at least three weeks in advance of each event.

Regularly check our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk

Online

Most of the support we provide will be available on our subject microsite. The site will contain:

- the latest version of the GCSE Business and Communication Systems specification;
- planning frameworks;
- Chief Examiner's reports, with top tips for improving examination performance;
- exemplar papers and mark schemes; and
- exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series).

CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

Subject Officer with overall responsibility:

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SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017

For first assessment in Summer 2018

For first award in Summer 2019



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