

AS/A2 Level INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

Students interested in the integration of computing into everyday life and how solutions can be applied to real world problems should consider this subject. Assessment is by exam at AS and exam and coursework at A2.

Subject introduction

Information & Communication Technology aims to develop in students the ability to analyse, appraise and make critical judgments about the use of information and communications technology systems. The qualification investigates how problem solving and decision-making relies on the effective use of such systems.

Students will gain an understanding of the role of people, technology and systems in organisations and be aware of the socio-economic and ethical effects of the use of technology. Practical skills developed will enable students to utilise the full facilities of various packages and bring together their knowledge and practical skills allowing them to apply solutions to real world problems.

Year 1 study outline

The AS award comprises two compulsory modules.

Unit 1 – Practical problem-solving in the Digital World

Assessed by examination with short answers and structured questions. In this unit students will use a range of software, hardware and communication technologies such as podcasting and collaborative group working including wiki's.

Unit 2 – Living in the Digital World

In this unit students will look at the wider picture of the use of ICT, which is often taken for granted in the world today. Issues studied will include environmental and ethical concepts. Assessed by examination with short answers and structured questions.

Year 2 study outline

The A2 award comprises two compulsory modules.

Unit 3 – The Use of ICT in the Digital World

This unit looks at the fast changing developments in technology and ICT systems' capabilities and how this might affect issues and management of ICT within organisations. Assessed by examination with extended answers and structured questions, based on pre-release material.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Unit 4 – Coursework: Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World

This provides students with the opportunity to complete a project for a real-world problem and produce a report based upon their practical investigation and work. This extended study is intended to integrate the various skills and concepts developed over the course.

Methods of study

Students have the opportunity during practical lessons to develop skills using a range of industry standard software and hardware, using computer networks and new media. This will enable them to gain a solid grounding of the roles that ICT plays in the modern world.

Students will not need access to a computer outside College as there is sufficient computer time built into the course and the LINC is also available to students during College opening hours.

Subject combinations and careers

This qualification will enable students to progress to a higher level in information and communication technology related subjects and will complement many other curriculum areas, recognising the increasing role of information communication technology. There are many possible careers in information

technology and related fields including systems analysts, database administrators, software installation, user support and network specialists and managers.

Methods of assessment

AS – 2 examinations

A2 – 20% coursework and 1 examination