

# Information & Communication Technology Applied A Level AQA

## Structure & Specification

Year 1- Single Award AS

Year 2- Single Award A2

## Syllabus details

AQA 8756 syllabus is followed.

## What does the course include?

### Year One- AS

**Unit 1: *ICT and Society*** (this unit is externally assessed) You will learn about the changes that ICT is causing, both now and in the future. Examples are all around us, such as mobile phones, e-commerce and education. You will need to evaluate the good and bad effects of ICT and have an understanding of the laws that control its use. This unit has a strong emphasis on the use of ICT in communications.

**Assessment:** You will be required to research and prepare a newsletter, or web page. Once the materials have been prepared, students have 15 hours to create and test the final assignment under controlled conditions.

**Unit 2: *ICT and Organisations*** (this Unit is internally assessed and externally moderated).

You will learn about the use of ICT in various types of organisation, especially how they use and process information. You will need to find out how large and small organisations organise their communications and develop ICT systems.

**Assessment:** You will need to produce a report with a work plan and evidence of research, showing how a specific ICT system meets the needs of an organisation. You will need diagrams showing the input, output and processing carried out by the system. You must describe the effect of ICT on working styles in the chosen organisation.

**Unit 3: *Data Handling*** (this Unit is internally assessed and externally moderated). You will learn about how databases are used by organisations, the data they use and how to produce a database for them which can store data, perform queries and generate reports. You will need to write a report based on your work, with evidence of planning, research, testing and evaluation.

### Year Two- A2

Units to include: **Unit 8: *Project Management***, **Unit 10: *Spreadsheet Design*** and **Unit 14: *Interactive Multimedia*** (full details of these units are available)

## How will I learn?

This is a practical course, based on the needs of real clients. You will develop skills in action-planning and information-seeking and evaluate your own learning. The Academy's Learning Centre can be used for individual study and preparation of assignments and projects. You will be expected to spend at least four hours each week on your homework assignments.

## How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of Portfolio based work, Practical work under controlled conditions and examinations, depending on the unit (see above for first year assessment).

## What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You should have interest in ICT and how it is applied to practical problems. You need to be well organised in order to succeed. You can't do it all at the last minute! You need to have numerate and logical skills to do well in ICT. You will also need to be able to write clearly structured technical reports, so Communication skills are important.

## What are the entry requirements?

Five Grade Cs at GCSE (preferably including Maths and English) or a Merit or Distinction in Intermediate GNVQ ICT.

## What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

Students who progress through this course ideally could study Business Information Systems at University. Suitable careers could be Web Designer, Systems Analyst or any business related job that uses ICT.