



GCE APPLIED ICT GCE APPLIED ICT (DOUBLE)

Why choose the Edexcel GCE in Applied ICT?

This award aims to produce effective discerning ICT users who:

- Can select and use appropriate ICT tools and techniques to help them carry out investigations, capture and handle data, solve problems, make decisions, and present and communicate information.
- Are aware of the benefits and drawbacks of ICT and its impact on the way in which people live their lives.
- Can plan and manage projects and work effectively with others.

Entry Requirements:

- 4 GCSEs at grade A*–C (including GCSE ICT and for a Double Award : Mathematics grade C or above) **plus**
- A good school/college report
- The score from the College's diagnostic exam will also be considered in appropriate cases.
- See application form for restrictions on number of A levels that can be undertaken.

Please refer to page 4 in the Application Form for more details.

Progression:

This qualification supports progression into further education, training or employment. Appropriate further education might be:

- BTEC Higher National in Computing
- BTEC Foundation Degree in Computing
- Degrees in Computing, IT or related fields

The GCE in Applied ICT qualifies for UCAS points. It gives students a wide choice of progression options into under graduate studies, training, or relevant employment in the ICT sector.

Course Structure:

- **Single Award As GCE (3 Units)** Units 1-3
- **Single Award Advanced GCE (6 Units)** Units 1-3,7-8, 10
- **Double Award As GCE (6 Units)** Units 1-6
- **Double Award Advanced GCE (12 Units)** Units 1-11 & 13

GCE IN APPLIED ICT AND GCE IN APPLIED ICT (DOUBLE) UNITS

UNIT NO	UNIT TITLE	AS	A2	AS DOUBLE	A2 DOUBLE	ASSESSMENT
1	THE INFORMATION AGE	•		•		INTERNAL
2	THE DIGITAL ECONOMY	•		•		INTERNAL
3	THE KNOWLEDGE WORKER	•		•		EXTERNAL
4	SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION			•		INTERNAL
5	WEB DEVELOPMENT			•		INTERNAL
6	TECHNICAL SUPPORT			•		INTERNAL
7	USING DATABASE SOFTWARE		•		•	EXTERNAL
8	MANAGING ICT PROJECTS		•		•	INTERNAL
9	COMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKS				•	EXTERNAL
10	USING MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE		•		•	INTERNAL
11	USING SPREADSHEET SOFTWARE				•	INTERNAL
13	WEB MANAGEMENT				•	INTERNAL

Overleaf are brief descriptions of the units that are included in the award

Want to know more about what's involved in each unit?

UNIT 1: THE INFORMATION AGE

In this unit you will learn about the information communication technologies that enable people to access and exchange information and to carry out transactions anytime, anywhere.

You will take a critical look at the impact that the internet has had on the way people conduct their personal and professional lives, explore the services it offers and gain 'hands-on' experience of using some of them. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 2: THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Databases are key to managing the large amount of data that organizations collect. You will learn how to use database software to analyse data and your work for this unit will culminate in an in-depth investigation into the design of a commercial transactional website and the back office processes. You will apply your database skills to the task of storing and analysing given data in order to identify significant trends and then make recommendations based on your interpretation of them. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 3: THE KNOWLEDGE WORKER

In this Information Age computers and communications technology provide many of us with access to vast quantities of information. As ICT users, we need to make judgements about sources and accuracy of information and be able to select and manipulate information to support sound decision-making. People who work at the tasks of developing or using knowledge are known as knowledge workers – in the world of ICT this includes programmers, systems analysts, technical writers and - most importantly - users. In other words, you are a knowledge worker! Knowledge workers are discerning consumers of information. They have the information-handling skills to turn information into knowledge. In this unit you will learn about making informed decisions using the knowledge available to you.

UNIT 4: SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION

In this unit you will acquire a sound knowledge of the hardware and software requirements of computer systems. You will learn how to apply this knowledge to produce system specifications that meet users' requirements by analysing user needs, evaluating similar systems in different contexts and selecting and combining appropriate system components. Most users do not have the skills or confidence to install computer systems or to attempt to deal with ICT problems themselves. You will learn the principles of system installation and how to install and test a stand-alone computer to a given configuration. This is a practitioner-focused unit.

UNIT 5: WEB DEVELOPMENT

In this unit you will learn how to plan, design and build simple static websites. You will learn to differentiate between clients and end users (customers) and to work effectively with both groups to produce websites that are fit for purpose and suitable for their target audience. Website visitors are discretionary users, who can just as easily go elsewhere if their first impression of a site is unfavourable. You will learn the importance of conducting end-user acceptance tests to make sure your sites are fully-functional, easy to use and accessible to disabled users. Your work for this unit will culminate in the design and production of a static 'brochure' website for a specified business client. The website must provide up-to-date information about products and prices and capture customer information. In addition, you will produce a set of proposals for your client detailing ways in which the functionality of the site can be further enhanced so as to fully support online trading (e-tailing). This is a practitioner-focused unit.

UNIT 6: TECHNICAL SUPPORT

You will learn how to implement appropriate hardware and software upgrades. You should by now be aware that communication is central to everything we do in the digital world. The internet and other technologies allow us to send and access information anytime and just about anywhere. As a practitioner you need to understand the different methods of digital communication and be able to support users who wish to use these technologies effectively. You will learn about internet connectivity, security issues email and web-based tools for collaborative working. Your work for this unit has four strands. The first two relate to the system you installed for Unit 4 – an upgrade to the system and an on-screen technical support manual. You will also produce a presentation on web-based tools for collaborative working and, finally, a report addressing the communication requirements of a small business. This is a practitioner-focused unit.

UNIT 7: USING DATABASE SOFTWARE

In this unit you will develop your knowledge and skills of databases further. You will learn the principles of data modeling and sound database design and will use relational database software to build working database systems capable of storing large quantities of data and of handling both routine and one-off requests for information. In all likelihood, other people beside yourself will want to use some – if not all – of the databases you create. With this in mind, you will design and implement user interfaces that make it easier for people to enter data and extract information, whilst ensuring the overall security and integrity of the database. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 8: MANAGING ICT PROJECTS

This unit will introduce you to some formal project management tools and methods and give you an opportunity to use specialist software to plan and monitor projects. You will be able to put into practice what you have learnt by setting up and running a small-scale software project. You will have to draw upon the knowledge and skills you have learned throughout the course in order to plan for and produce the required software product. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 9: COMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKS

You will draw upon this knowledge to help you devise effective network solutions. You will use network design software to produce detailed designs that are clearly presented and easy to understand. You will learn about the benefits of networks, as well as the risks associated with them. You will find out what managing a network involves and – ideally – get some hands on experience of carrying out routine network management tasks. Users cannot be expected to know and understand specialist network terminology or have an in-depth understanding of management issues. You must be able to provide professional, unbiased advice to clients and present complex concepts in easy to understand, non-technical language. Your work for this unit will culminate in the design and presentation of a network solution to meet the needs of a specified client. This unit is externally assessed. This is a practitioner-focused unit.

UNIT 10: USING MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Your work for this unit will culminate in the design, development and testing of an interactive multimedia product for a specified target audience. You will establish the functional requirements of the product at the outset and carry out formative evaluation and testing throughout its development. You will learn the importance of seeking and making use of feedback from others to help you in your work. The summative evaluation of your work for this unit will include a self-assessment of your current skill level and an indication of what else you need to know or be able to do in order to further enhance your ability to produce interactive multimedia products. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 11: USING SPREADSHEET SOFTWARE

In this unit you will learn the skills and techniques needed to design and create technically complex spreadsheets yourself. A decision based on flawed logic could have disastrous consequences! You will learn the importance of checking that any spreadsheets you create or use can be relied on to produce accurate information under all possible conditions. You will learn how to use data validation and other techniques to reduce the potential for data entry errors. In order to get maximum return from any spreadsheets you create, you will learn how to incorporate 'future-proofing' features which make it easier for you to implement modifications and extensions at a later date should you need to do so. You will learn the importance of seeking and making use of feedback from others to help you in your work. This is a user-focused unit.

UNIT 13: WEB MANAGEMENT

In this unit you will learn what is involved in managing and monitoring the performance of a site once it has been published on the web and is accessible to a wide audience. You will investigate different types of web hosts and the services they offer and learn how to upload website files to a webserver. This is a practitioner-focused unit.