

Advanced Level in ICT

"I have a keen interest in computers and wanted to learn more."

"The thing I like best is working independently and developing personal skills such as working with others!"

"I am better prepared for the working world."

"Broadening my skills and knowledge has helped me to be better prepared for university."

Specification:

OCR Advanced Subsidiary level in ICT H117

OCR Advanced level in ICT H517

Course Details

We offer the Advanced level in ICT which consists of 4 units of study over two years. Students may study to AS level for one year, and complete two units of study – Information, Systems and Applications and Structured ICT Tasks. At AS Level, assessment is via an external assessment (a two hour written exam) for the first Unit. The second unit is assessed via a coursework and is 40% of the AS grade. Two further units are studied in the second year at A2 level. ICT Systems, Applications and Implications is assessed via a two hour written examination, and an ICT Project (which is assessed through coursework) which is a substantial piece of work, requiring analysis and design over an extended period of time, allowing students to demonstrate skills to analyse a problem, design a solution to a problem, develop a software solution and test, document and evaluate the solution. This coursework represents 20% of the total Advanced GCE mark.

Aims of the course

In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data. These skills are now as essential as the traditional skills of numeracy and literacy.

The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies.

GCE ICT encourages students to become discerning users of ICT. It allows them to develop a broad range of ICT skills, knowledge and understanding.

The aims of these specifications are to encourage candidates to develop:

- the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically;
- the skills to work collaboratively;
- the ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts to solve problems;

- an understanding of the consequences of using ICT on individuals, organisations and society and of social, legal, ethical and other considerations on the use of ICT;
- an awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of the potential impact these may have on individuals, organisations and society.

Entry requirements

As well as the standard entry requirements, one of these GCSEs should normally be in this subject. It is important that students have their own computer at home with appropriate software, to allow them to complete and support their studies.

Costs

As part of the course we have a trip to Disneyland Paris, looking at key aspects of ICT use in a large private organisation. The trip is voluntary, and usually costs around £350.

Possible progression

Students who successfully complete this qualification will be well equipped to move on to degrees and other Level 4 qualifications in related subjects such as IT, Computer Science, Information systems, Software engineering, Computer Networking, e-business and information management.