

IGCSE Information and Communication Technology

The aims of the course are to:

- Help students to develop and consolidate their knowledge, skills and understanding in Information and Communication Technology;
- Encourage students to develop further as autonomous users of Information and Communication Technology;
- Encourage students to continue to develop their Information and Communication Technology skills in order to enhance their work in a variety of subject areas;
- Provide opportunities for students to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate Information and Communication Technology systems;
- Encourage students to consider the impact of new technologies on methods of working in the outside world and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues;
- Help students to grow in their awareness of the ways in which Information and Communication Technology is used in practical and work-related situations.

The two assessment objectives in Information Technology are:

A. Practical Skills

Students should be able to:

- Use e-mail and the Internet to gather and communicate information;
- Use word processing facilities to prepare documents;
- Use database facilities to manipulate data to solve problems and represent data graphically;
- Integrate data from different sources into a single document or report;
- Produce output in a specified format;
- Use a spreadsheet to create and test a data model, extracting and summarising data;
- Create a structured website with style sheets, tables and hyperlinks;
- Create and control an interactive presentation.

B. Knowledge and Understanding

Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in relation to:

- The functions of the main hardware and software components of computer systems;
- The networking of information-processing systems;
- The ways in which information technology is used and the effects of its use;
- The stages and methods of system analysis and design;
- Computing terminology.

All candidates will be entered for Papers 1, 2 and 3.

Paper 1 (2 hours) (40% of final mark)

A written paper of 100 marks assessing the skills in Assessment Objective B. The paper will contain mainly questions requiring a short response, a word, a phrase or one or two sentences, although there will be some questions requiring a more extended response. There will be no choice of questions. The questions will test sections 1-8 of the curriculum content.

Paper 2 (2 hours 30 minutes) (30% of final mark)

A practical test of 80 marks assessing skills in sections 9-16.

Paper 3 (2 hours 30 minutes) (30% of final mark)

A practical test of 80 marks assessing skills in sections 9-16.

The two practical tests will each comprise a number of tasks to be taken under controlled conditions. The practical tests focus on the candidate's ability to carry out practical tasks rather than to explain the theory of how the tasks are completed. Candidates are assessed on their ability to complete these tasks.