

ICT and Computing Qualifications

Compiled by Terry Freedman

In this document...

INTRODUCTION.....	1
ABOUT THE LISTS	1
HOW TO USE THE LISTS.....	1
DISCOUNTING.....	2
LEVELS.....	2
KEY.....	2
FROM 2017 LIST OF APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS.....	3
FROM 2016 LIST OF APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS.....	4
FROM 2015 LIST OF APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS.....	4
QUALIFICATIONS THAT COUNT IN THE EBACC.....	4
NOTE:	4
FURTHER READING:	4
SOURCES.....	4

Introduction

I've compiled this information in the light of the recent proposal by the DfE to discontinue the approval of ICT courses at GCSE level. I've collated the information from several sources. As some of these may be out of date by the time you read this (one document was updated only a month after publication), and others were a bit old in the first place, I strongly recommend that you check out any likely-looking courses for yourself. This document is intended only as a first port of call, to save people from trawling through long documents, and I take no responsibility for its accuracy. But I hope you find it useful.

If you subscribe to my newsletter, Digital Education, you can download a 20-point checklist to help you evaluate the suitability of different qualifications. If you haven't **already** subscribed, you'll find information about the newsletter and a sign-up form on the ICT & Computing in Education website at www.ictineducation.org/newsletters.

About the lists

I've included qualifications that are obviously IT, ICT or Computing, but have also included others that may be of interest. Please note that I haven't checked each set of specifications, so a likely-looking title is no guarantee that a qualification will prove to be useful to you. As I said above, this document is intended as a first port of call, to save you having to trawl through a whole load of **definitely** irrelevant stuff!

I've also included some qualifications that look the same as each other, just in case the specifications are different.

The reasons that the ICT qualifications are included even though we have been told that they will not be continued are as follows:

- The 2017 list is the most up-to-date list available.
- There will be a 2018 list coming out in December, which may exclude the ICT qualifications, but it is not out yet. It is not for me to try to second guess what will be in it.
- As Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over", meaning that for all I know, the petition may be so successful that the ICT qualifications will be given a reprieve. If that happens, my excluding them now will prove to have been premature.

Like I said, this document is simply intended to help you get started in the search for alternative qualifications, thereby saving you a bit of time hopefully.

How to use the lists

My recommendation is to start with the 2017 list, and only look at the 2016 and 2015 lists if you can't find anything you like the look of in the 2017 list.

At the time of writing (November 2015), any qualification in the 2017 list will count towards the school's performance measure. Any qualification **not** in the 2017 list will count for pupils, but will not count towards the school's performance.

NB: At some point in December (the date is not yet known), the 2018 list will be published. Therefore I suggest using the 2017 list here as a starting point of looking at promising qualifications, but not making any final decisions until you've seen the 2018 list. Try looking on the Raiseonline website from time to time for the update (www.raiseonline.org).

Discounting

Discount codes or classification codes are codes used to designate the subject area of qualifications.

Make sure you check out the discount codes of the qualifications you are intending to use. The Awarding Body in question should have the information.

The reason is as follows: if you decide to put pupils in for two qualifications that have the same classification code (in order to get two for the price of one, as it were), then only one of them will count. As far as I can gather, only one will count for the school's performance reporting, and also for the pupils who gain both qualifications. Thus one qualification discounts the other, hence the term "discount code".

Interestingly, some qualifications in a similar area may have different discount codes. I've listed the most immediately obvious ones below. However, once you've decided on the qualifications to teach, you will need to check their discount codes if they are similar, or ask your school's examinations officer to advise you.

CA	IT
CJ	Computer Technology
CJ3	Computer Architecture / Systems
CK1	Computer Science
CN1	Computer Appreciation/Introduction
KA1	Communication Studies
KA2	Media Studies
KA4	Multimedia
LJ9	Music Technology (Electronic)
XA3	Technology
XJ14	Electronic / Electrical Engineering
XL1	Electronic Engineering (General)

Levels

Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE, while Level 3 is equivalent to 'A' Level. But see

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/qualifications-what-the-different-levels-mean> for more detailed guidance.

Key

ITQ = IT User Qualification See <https://www.e-skills.com/standards-and-qualifications/it-user-qualifications---itq/> for explanation

TLM = The Learning Machine See <https://theingots.org/community/about> for explanation

QCF = Qualifications Credit Framework See <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/qualifications-and-credit-framework-qcf.html> for explanation

VRQ = Vocationally-Related Qualification See <http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/career-education/difference-between-vrq-and-nvq/> for explanation

From 2017 list of approved qualifications

Qualifications with an asterisk count towards the EBacc.

- AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science *
- AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Design and Technology: Electronic Products
- AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Design and Technology: Systems and Control Technology
- AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology
- AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Media Studies (Double Award)
- AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computer Science
- AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing *
- AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Information and Communication Technology
- AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Media Studies
- BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application
- BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)
- Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Computer Science *
- Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Information and Communication Technology
- CCEA Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied Information and Communications Technology
- CCEA Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied Information and Communications Technology (Double Award)
- CCEA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Applied Information and Communication Technology (Double Award) (Specification A)
- CCEA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Information and Communication Technology
- CCEA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Moving Image Arts
- City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate for IT Users (QCF)
- NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Interactive Media (QCF)
- NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Studies: Interactive Media (VRQ)
- NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Creative Studies: Interactive Media
- OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia
- OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT
- OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computing *
- OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology
- OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Media Studies
- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied Information and Communication Technology
- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied Information and Communication Technology (Double Award)
- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing *
- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Information and Communication Technology
- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Media Studies
- Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate for IT Users (ITQ) (QCF)
- Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Creative Digital Media Production
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Engineering Electronics and Computer Control Technologies
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology
- Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science *
- Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Design and Technology: Electronic Products
- Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (Double Award)
- Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)
- TLM Level 1 Certificate In Open Systems and Enterprise (QCF)
- TLM Level 2 Certificate for IT User Skills in Open Systems and Enterprise (QCF)
- WJEC Eduqas Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computer Science [NEW]
- WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Creative and Media
- WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science *

- WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Design and Technology (Systems and Control Technology)
- WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Film Studies (Pilot)
- WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology
- WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Media Studies
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied ICT (Double Award) (Pilot)
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Applied ICT (Pilot)
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing *
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Film Studies
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Information and Communication Technology
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Media Studies

From 2016 list of approved qualifications

- NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Computer Technology
- Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma for IT Users
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Information and Creative Technology
- Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Information and Creative Technology
- TLM Level 1 Certificate in Open Systems Computing

From 2015 list of approved qualifications

- BCS Level 1 Certificate in IT User Skills (Digital Creator)
- City & Guilds Level 1 Diploma for IT Users
- City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate For Software Developers
- Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Information and Creative Technology

Qualifications that count in the eBacc

- OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing
- AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing
- WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Computing
- OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computing

Note:

"If the single sciences option is chosen, to count as science in the Baccalaureate, three out of four single sciences must be taken in physics, chemistry, biology and computer science from the list above, and grades A*-C achieved in two of them. Only the OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computing and the AQA Level 1/2 GCSE in Computer Science were eligible to count as computer science in 2014. From 2015 WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science, Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Computer Science, Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Computer Science and AS levels will also count as computer science in the Science Baccalaureate."

Further reading:

As well as the documents listed below, please see

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/secondary_14/documents.html for documents on Progress 8 and other qualifications-related stuff.

Sources

- DfE's "2017 key stage 4 performance tables: qualifications in the technical award category"
- DfE's " 2016 key stage 4 performance tables: inclusion of 14 to 16 non-GCSE qualifications"
- DfE's "2015 KEY STAGE 4 PERFORMANCE TABLES: INCLUSION OF 14-16 non-GCSE QUALIFICATIONS"
- DfE's "Qualifications counting in the English Baccalaureate"
- www.raiseonline.org

© Crown This information has been copied under the Government Open Licence – see www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2

If you found this document useful, please feel free to pass it along to friends, family and colleagues!