

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies (J808)

1. Why the change from Cambridge Nationals in ICT?

Following the DfE's review of ICT Technical Awards OCR was asked to make some changes to the Cambridge National Certificate in ICT, prior to inclusion in the 2019 KS4 performance tables.

We took this opportunity to consult widely with schools, employers and other qualification users, to ensure that our Cambridge National would continue to meet your and your students' needs.

The overwhelming outcome of this consultation was that we should bring forward redevelopment plans and launch our brand new qualification, aligning it to the latest Key Stage 4 curriculum and innovative use of technology to best equip your students for their future.

The new Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies has been designed to fit into the curriculum and form a key part of a student's Progress 8 and Attainment 8 approved subjects and is approved by the DfE for the 2019 Performance Points tables for first teaching from September 2017.

2. Who is this qualification for?

It's for 14–16-year-olds moving into their Key Stage 4 programme of study and looking to combine their GCSEs with a vocational qualification in information communication technologies.

The skills, knowledge and understanding students will develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. They will support them in a range of subject areas such as 'A' levels in Business or Geography, or Cambridge Technicals in IT. They can also support their progression into employment through Apprenticeships in areas such as Digital Marketer or Business Administrator.

3. Will OCR centres be given automatic approval to offer the new specification?

You will get automatic approval if you do GCSE, A Level or currently deliver another Cambridge National Level 1/2 qualification with us. If not approved for any of these then you will need to go through the normal approval process for 14–19 qualifications.

4. How much will the qualification cost?

Please see the Vocational Qualifications [Fees List](#) on the OCR website.

5. How is the qualification structured and assessed?

The qualification has eight learning outcomes, detailing the teaching content for this qualification. These are not separated into individual units of teaching.

There are two assessments to be taken and we refer to these as units of assessment. This is not linear assessment, each assessment can be taken in different series and there are no terminal rules.

Assessment Unit R012 - Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions, is examined, there will be two series every year after the first year.

Assessment Unit R013 - Developing technological solutions, is internally assessed and OCR-moderated. There will be two series every year after the first year. Work is produced by following an OCR-set assignment. A new assignment will be set for each series and then withdrawn. The series in which it can be used will be stated on the assignment.

We've taken this direction to support a holistic approach to delivery and a synoptic approach to assessment. We want students to develop their appreciation and understanding of the connections between the different elements of learning, and show they can go on to apply what they learn from this qualification to new and different situations and contexts.

6. How is the breadth and depth of the teaching content defined?

In the specification for each learning outcome (LO) amplification has been included in the delivery guidance column. For LO1, 3, 4, 6 we use the terms 'know and understand'. For LO 2, 5, 7 and 8 we used the term 'be able to'. Where students have to:

- know an aspect of teaching content, we mean that they will need to identify or describe key points
- understand an aspect of teaching content, we mean that they will need to explain, analyse or evaluate key points
- demonstrate skills, we mean that they will need to make appropriate selections and choices from the tools and techniques available to respond to an OCR-set brief.

In addition, expectations of prior Key Stage 3 knowledge and understanding have been highlighted in the delivery guidance, where appropriate. We also have a skills grid, which shows centres the breadth and depth of skills development and progression across the qualification (see question 29).

7. What do you expect teachers to cover in teaching about the project lifecycle?

You have said there appears to be an emphasis on the project life cycle. It looks like project management.

This is not a full application of the project management concept. The specification requires students to develop a product(s) following the project life cycle without needing to know the ins and outs of project management. For example, the qualification is getting students to plan their approach and then reflect at key points throughout the project with a final evaluation as to its success.

We are also producing resources that will assist you with this.

8. Do I have to take units of assessment in a particular order?

No, there is no right or wrong approach to this, the importance here is to administer the assessment in the best way to suit your centre and students. Please see questions 10 to 18 regarding live assessment series.

9. Will you provide specimen assessment materials?

Yes. The sample assessment material is available on the OCR Website for each unit of assessment. These are available to download on the [qualifications page](#) under the 'Assessment preparation' Sample Assessment Material heading.

10. Will the examined unit of assessment be available on demand or in examination series?

It will be series-based – the first exam assessment is in June 2018 and then every January and June.

11. Will centres be expected to run the examined units at the end of the course?

A centre can choose in which series to undertake the external assessment (i.e. January or June). This is not a linear qualification.

12. Is the examination based on a Pre-Release? What will be assessed?

Assessment Unit R012 is not based on a pre-release, but stimulus material is included within the examination. The examination is a combination of short answer and extended response questions. Understanding learning outcomes will be directly assessed through the examination, skills learning outcomes will be assessed through the internally assessed unit of assessment. See section 3.1 of the [specification](#) for details.

13. Will the internal unit of assessment be available on demand or in a set series?

It will be series-based – the first internal assessment series is in June 2018 and there will be two series every year after the first year.

Work is produced by following an OCR-set assignment. A new assignment will be set for each series and then withdrawn. The series in which it can be used will be stated on the assignment.

14. When will the OCR-set Assignment be released?

OCR-set assignments will be released in good time for students to complete the assignment, which will take approximately 20 hours, for submission into its appropriate series.

The first assignment is scheduled for release no later than January 2018, with the marks being submitted by 15th May 2018. (This is the schedule for the June 2018 series.)

15. Will the internal unit of assessment be based on non-examination assessment (NEA)?

No, NEA does not apply.

However, there are conditions under which the assessment for this qualification will have to be taken; these can be found in the OCR set assignment teacher guidelines.

The JCQ guidelines relevant to this qualification are '[Instructions for Conducting Coursework](#)'. However, there is an exception which relates to the resit rule in 18.2.

Students may resit the internally assessed Unit R013 and they must use a **new** OCR-set assignment. A new assignment will be set for each series and then withdrawn.

JCQ Instructions state 'These instructions are additional to any guidelines or regulations an individual awarding body may issue. If there is a conflict between the awarding body's guidelines or regulations and these instructions, the awarding body's guidelines and subject-specific instructions shall prevail.'

16. Will I be able to adapt the OCR-set assignments for R013?

No, you cannot change any aspect of the OCR-set assignment (scenarios or tasks) as these form a coherent whole, addressing all the 'be able to' learning outcomes and allowing access to the full range of marks.

17. How is the evidence for R013 to be presented?

For Assessment Unit R013 the student is expected to produce a portfolio of evidence that is stored electronically in a secure area and capable of being submitted to OCR either through the OCR Repository or through the postal moderation route. The students' final product should be submitted.

However, students' evidence is expected to take the form of electronic files of work and include different versions that show their development, so there should be less need for screenshots.

18. Are students allowed to introduce new resources/evidence between formally supervised sessions?

No, when work for assessment is produced over several sessions, the following material must be collected and stored securely at the end of each session (and not be accessible to students):

- the work to be assessed
- preparatory work.

19. What moderation methods are available

We offer two different moderation methods for you to choose from:

- Moderation via the OCR Repository
- Postal moderation.

Within a series you must enter all students taking the internal unit of assessment using the same moderation method.

20. Is there any visiting moderation?

No, we continually review the uptake and performance of all our qualifications and have seen a large decline in the use of visiting moderation. We have decided not to provide visiting moderation for this qualification.

However, support is available for centre questions and delivery guidance via the [ICT community](#) and from our Subject Advisors.

21. Do we have to specify Level 1 or Level 2 when entering a student?

No, the uniform mark from the two units of assessment combined determines the qualification grade. The results are awarded on the following scale:

- Distinction* at Level 2
- Distinction at Level 2
- Merit at Level 2
- Pass at Level 2
- Distinction at Level 1
- Merit at Level 1
- Pass at Level 1.

22. How will the overall grade and level be calculated?

The student's uniform mark for both Units of assessment will be combined to give a total uniform mark for the qualification. To obtain a pass at Level 2, 144 uniform marks across the two units of assessment is required. To achieve a pass at Level 1 qualification, 72 marks are required. The full qualification grade boundaries are available in Section 4 of the [Specification](#).

23. How long will it take to find out results?

We will issue results automatically on the published day (the same day as GCSEs). For the first June 2018 series, results are scheduled for release on 22 August. For more information about these dates see [key dates and timetables](#).

Centres will receive unit grades and UMS results. Students' raw marks will be available via the results reports downloadable from Interchange, together with raw mark grade boundaries. For students who are certificating, qualification grades and total UMS will also be issued.

24. Can students resit the units of assessment?

Yes they can. Students may resit each assessment unit and the best unit result will be used to calculate the certification result.

Students may resit the externally assessed Unit R012, once.

Students may resit the internally assessed Unit R013 but they must use a new OCR-set assignment. New assignments are released for each series.

25. Is there a cost for resits?

Yes. There will be a cost for resits. Please see the Vocational Qualifications [Fees List](#).

26. Do I have to make an entry for certification?

Yes. You will need to make a certification entry for those students who are certificating for the qualification. The certification code is **J808**.

27. What training is going to be available? When can people start to book?

As with all our qualifications, there will be a range of events to support centres.

We have introduced more accessible training formats (such as twilight sessions) which may be more suitable for centres, online training, as well as our existing face-to-face sessions.

To view and to book training, visit: www.cpdhub.ocr.org.uk.

28. What teaching and learning resources are available?

The following resources are free and available to download from the qualification web page:

- sample assessment material
- delivery guide with:
 - modules of lesson element activities
 - resource links
- set of skills guides that aren't subject specific, but each cover a topic that could be relevant to a range of qualifications – for example 'communication', 'legislation' and 'research'
- skills grid.

We will also be providing:

- sample student work
- past papers
- a combined past paper (June 2018 examination paper with commentary)
- series reports from lead marker and moderator.

29. Who can I talk to for more information?

If you have any comments or enquiries about this qualification, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 02476 851509 or email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk.