

Assignment 1.1: Advanced level coursework

In this part of Assignment 1, you have to do two things:

1. Compare the coursework requirements of three English GCE boards.
2. Produce material to exemplify the standards of a coursework unit of one board.

Aims of this part of the assignment

The aim of this part of the assignment is to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of GCE syllabi and their assessment, and the subject knowledge required to teach at this level.

The document [Assignment 1 and the Standards for QTS](#) gives information on the Standards this part of Assignment 1 addresses - and hence of the criteria against which it will be assessed. However, the exemplar materials you produce will also be assessed against the assessment criteria for Advanced GCE coursework, and you will be expected to achieve a mark of at least 45/60 - i.e. 75%. Please note that in addition, all coursework is expected to be at an acceptable standard of written English. To help you write at an appropriate level, the document '[Writing Hints](#)' lists a number of the more common mistakes BTs make when writing their coursework.

What you have to produce

To complete this part of the assignment you will have to produce the following:

1. A comparison (1000 word maximum) of the GCE coursework requirements of the AQA, Edexcel and OCR examination boards.
2. A set of tasks which exemplify the standard of work required by OCR's unit 2513.

Comparison of mark schemes

The AQA, Edexcel and OCR examination boards all include coursework as part of their GCE specifications - AQA and Edexcel in units 3 and 6 and OCR in units 2513 and 2516. While these all have numerous similarities, they also have differences. Your task is to compare *what* is assessed through coursework in each specification and *how* it is assessed. The specifications for all the courses can be downloaded from the 'GNVQ/VCE/'A' level section of the IT PGCE course web site, which also contains links to all three exam board's web sites.

Discussion of this coursework requirements will form part of the session on 'Issues in assessing 'A' level IT' on February 12th and it is suggested that you write this part of Assignment 1.1 in the following study week.

Exemplar material

Here you need to produce a piece of coursework to exemplify the standard expected successfully to complete Unit 2513 of the OCR specification. This means that you will need to show both an appropriate level of technical expertise and full and appropriate documentation. In addition, since it is assumed that you will only submit work which you feel meets the GCE assessment criteria, this work will provide evidence of your ability successfully to assess against these criteria. OCR unit 2513 was chosen because it consists of a number of structured tasks, each of which is based on a different piece of software. Thus it will give you the opportunity to demonstrate a wide range of software skills.

Relationship between Assignment 1.2 and GCE coursework

Although this part of the assignment is based on a GCE unit, there are numerous important differences between the two. In particular: the context for each of the tasks is different; you will not have a significant amount of curriculum time in which to complete it (other than the introductory sessions); and you are actively encouraged to share experiences, problems and solutions - to use each other as a resource.

The tasks

There are three tasks for you to complete. Each of these is related to one task of unit 2513, as you will see by examining the [outline specification](#) and the [detailed mark scheme](#) for that unit. The latter details the documentation required and lists the assessment criteria.

The Excel task is based on the development of a spreadsheet to: record GCSE coursework marks; highlight pupils attaining different levels of performance; and use these data to predict exam performance. You can download a [specification](#) for this task. You should have a draft of this task completed by the end of the Christmas vacation.

The Hypertext task is based on the development of an on-line tutorial to teach aspects of HTML to KS3 pupils, based on booklets developed by Lai Ching Lin and Willietta Afadi at Woolwich Polytechnic school. You can download a [specification](#) for this task. You should have a draft of this task completed by the end of the Christmas vacation.

The Access task is based on the need of IT teachers to cross-reference and link learning objectives, activities and resources to the IT National Curriculum, DfEE Schemes of Work and software skills. There is an [initial specification](#) for this task, which will be updated following the session on October 23rd. You will then be able to download the [revised specification](#). You should have a draft of this task completed before you start PTE 2.

Resources and help

A substantial number of resources exist to help pupils successfully complete 'A' level projects. You will find links to relevant books and software tutorials on the page for the sessions in which each element of this assignment is introduced, and to other resources at the bottom of the 'GNVQ/VCE/'A' Level' section of the course web site.

You should also look at the 'Useful school sites' item on that page, which contains links to schools which have produced material to help their pupils in 'A' level projects.

When you should do this part of the assignment

You will start work on the second part of this assignment in the curriculum session on October 1st and different sections of it will form the basis of the 'A' level sessions in the remainder of that term (see curriculum session timetable for details). The requirements of the various exam boards will be discussed in the session on February 12th, allowing you to write this aspect of the assignment in the following week.

After the initial sessions at the Institute of Education you should discuss the production of the exemplar material with your SCT and take their advice on whether you are writing material at an appropriate level.

Handing-in dates

You should aim to complete the spreadsheet and HTML tasks by the end of the Christmas vacation. You will receive feedback on them by the end of PTE 1.

The database task, and the discussion of the requirements of the different exam boards should be completed by the end of 'Study & Practical Teaching Preparation Week' (February 18th-22nd). You will receive feedback on these by the start of the Easter vacation.

You may use the feedback you receive to change your draft at any time before the final handing in date for Assignment 1 - June 14th.