

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE

# **AS/A Level GCE ICT**

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**(H117, H517)**

**ICT & Computing Department**

# AS/A Level GCE ICT

(H117, H517)

## Changes

- Assessment has been streamlined: the coursework element is still 40% but examinations are 2 hours.
- Coursework assessment has been retained as the best method to assess practical skills.
- AS coursework covers a wide range of skills and A2 coursework has been rewritten.
- All of the current A Level specifications have been updated. This is the only change to the current A Level specifications

## **Exam Board**

OCR

## **Entry Requirements**

- A\* - B Grades in GCSE ICT and Computing
- Distinction Grade in BTEC ICT and
- A minimum of Grade C in English Language

A2 includes assessment by essay, students should therefore have good written English.



## **ICT at KS5**

At advanced level, the OCR ICT AS course is offered as part of the sixth form curriculum.

The OCR ICT AS course is made up of an exam and coursework with a wide range of ICT topics and applications covered during the course of study. This course aims to ready students for the world of work.

## **Methods of Study**

- Lectures, group work and practical sessions
- Case studies and individual research
- Individual project work

## **Course Content.**

### **‘AS’ Level**

**Information, Systems and Application (Unit GO61)**

- Hardware and Software
- The differences between data, information, knowledge and processing.
- Spreadsheet and Database concepts
- Characteristics of Standard Applications.
- The role and impact of ICT in society.

### **Structured ICT Tasks (Unit GO62)**

These are set by the exam board and are project based. They will require you to solve a given problem using a range of software applications and give you the opportunity to explore design, software development, testing and documentation.

## **‘A2’ Level**

### **ICT Systems, Applications and Implications (GO63)**

- Systems cycle
- Networks and communications
- Applications of ICT
- Implications of ICT

### **ICT Project (GO64)**

Users develop their own ICT project.

### **What do I need to know or be able to do this course?**

The aim of the course is to encourage students to develop and apply an understanding of the principles of problem solving using ICT, understand the range of applications of ICT and the effect of their use. You will need to have achieved at least a Grade B at GCSE in ICT or an ICT related qualification. You will need to show that you have an interest in the world of ICT and have developed a good level of ICT skills.

## **Exam Format**

### How will I be assessed?

## **‘AS’ Level**

Information, Systems and Application (Unit GO61)

There will be a **2 hour written** paper.

- 60% of total ‘AS’ Level marks; 30% of total of ‘A2’ Level marks.

### **Structured ICT Tasks (Unit GO62)**

- There will be 6 short structured practical ICT tasks.
- 40% of total ‘AS’ Level marks; 20% of total of ‘A2’ Level marks.

## **‘A2’ Level**

### **ICT Systems, Applications and Implications (GO63)**

- There will be a 2 hour written paper.
- 30% of total of ‘A2’ Level marks.

### **ICT Project (GO64)**

- Coursework
- 20% of total of ‘A2’ Level marks.

### **What could I do with a qualification in this subject?**

In today’s workplace, those with the knowledge and skills to use ICT creatively have the opportunity to pursue new and exciting careers. To meet these career challenges this course provides a sound knowledge of ICT together with interpersonal, technical and academic skills.

The three most commonly asked questions about this course are:

### **What software packages do I need for the course?**

You must have practical experience of the most common generic software packages, a word-processor, a spreadsheet package, and a database management system as well as presentation and drawing software.

### **Is the coursework element the same as GCSE ICT?**

No, at 'AS' Level the coursework questions are shorter tasks set by the examination board.

### **Do I need to be good at Mathematics to be successful in ICT?**

No, this is not a Computing course – it is based on the development of software skills to solve problems.

**Key Dates** in the year (e.g. half termly assessments, controlled assessment dates, field trips)

- November, February, May and July

## **Progression and the Future**

Progression from the AS course to A2 is dependent on passing AS.

Students who successfully complete the assessment for AS Level during the first year will be eligible to progress to A2 Level in the second year. Information and communications technology is a part of daily life and is used in a wide range of university courses and in almost every area of professional employment. There are progression pathways onto University level courses.