



AS / A2 Information and Communication Technology (Level 3)

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

ICT is widely used in all aspects of modern day living, whether this is in business, government, education, leisure or the home. In this increasingly technological age studying how technology can be used in the solution of a variety of problems is very worthwhile.

ICT demands both a logical approach and a creative imagination. All students are encouraged to have an awareness of the management and organisation of systems. You will investigate the effects of ICT applications on society and individuals.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In the first year you will study two units, one a written examination where you will acquire knowledge and understanding of information systems. Part of the exam will assess your understanding of a spreadsheet completed in class prior to the examination. Unit 2 is an internally assessed piece of coursework on presenting information, this covers DTP and multimedia activities.

In the second year a further two units are studied - a written examination that focuses on the use and impact of ICT, and coursework which is an extensive relational database project.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You must complete two units in order to gain an AS qualification. This will contribute 50% of the total A level. The externally set examination is worth 60% and the internally marked coursework 40%. The A2 units follow the same structure with all coursework being externally moderated.

WHAT SKILLS AND SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

You will undertake both theoretical and practical based activities. This will include instruction and demonstration using a range of equipment and commercial software. You will need to be able to work independently and in small group activities. An essential requirement is an interest in the application of Information Technology and a willingness to complete private study.

You should have some existing ability in ICT and preferably have achieved at least a GCSE grade C in Maths and English.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

A2 ICT is a valuable A Level to have to contribute towards University applications for a variety of courses, as well as specialist ICT and Computing courses. Alternatively, it is a good A Level to have on your CV when looking for employment as ICT is now used in all walks of life.

PRIESTLEY EXTRA

You will be able to take part in activities organised by the College Computer Club.

The Curriculum Area organises lots of extra activities for students including trips and visits to local industries and Universities. You will be able to take part in enrichment activities such as Flash Animation techniques, Google Sketchup methods and events organised by the University of Salford and Queen Mary University of London.