



GUIDANCE TO CENTRES ON A/AS LEVEL SCIENCE SYLLABUSES IN 2006 AND 2007

Following extensive consultations with Centres, the A/AS level syllabuses in science subjects have been revised for 2007. This means that care must be taken to prepare candidates using the correct syllabus documents in 2006 and 2007.

Syllabuses documents apply to the year in which the examination is taken.

- The syllabus for 2006 gives the format of the examinations that will be held in the June 2006 and November 2006 sessions.
- The syllabus for 2007 gives the format for the examinations that will be held in the June 2007 and November 2007 sessions.

In most cases this is straightforward. However, Centres are advised to take particular care to use the correct syllabus documents when entering their candidates for staged assessment (in which the AS and A2 components are taken in separate examination sessions) or for repeats of examinations taken in a previous session.

Staged assessment route

Students who take a staged assessment route, with their AS papers in 2006 and their A2 papers in 2007, will take their AS papers as described in the 2006 syllabus and their A2 papers as described in the 2007 syllabus. Their teaching will need to reflect this: the AS part of the course should be taught from the 2006 syllabus and the A2 part of the course should be taught from the 2007 syllabus. We have ensured that this will provide a coherent course for the students.

Repeat candidates

Students who took their AS level examination in 2006 and who repeat it in 2007 will not be significantly affected by the changes. The theory content and the format of Papers 1 and 2 are unchanged. The length of Paper 3 will be different, but the skills assessed will be a subset of those required in the present format. No new skills will have to be learned.

Students who took their A2 papers in 2006 and wish to repeat in 2007 will need to do some additional work. The options from the 2006 syllabuses will not be required, and instead candidates will have to study the new "Applications" section of the syllabus. They may also need to do some additional preparation for the new Paper 5.