

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: Teachers of J275 GCSE Computing

Date: July 2014

Subject: Re: J275 GCSE Computing: Units A452 and A453 Controlled assessment

J275 GCSE COMPUTING: UNITS A452 AND A453 CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

The availability of model answers to live controlled assessment tasks for two units of GCSE Computing J275 on a number of public websites means OCR has had to act so that the assessment is not compromised and all students receive the result they deserve.

One course of action that OCR follows if sensitive information such as this is available is to ask public websites to remove the information as soon as possible. After a school got in touch last week to raise its concerns, OCR reviewed the options in line with regulatory requirements.

We have now completed that review - and while there is no suggestion of widespread malpractice - we have to act to avoid the slightest possibility that one candidate could gain an unfair advantage over another. As a result, we have decided that with immediate effect OCR will withdraw the existing controlled assessment tasks and will be replacing them for the next academic year on Interchange by 15 September 2014. To avoid penalising the vast majority of hard-working students and teachers, **those candidates who have completed or just started their controlled assessment tasks with entries in June 2015 will still be able to submit their work.** Schools and colleges will however be asked to submit the names of their candidates and the tasks for each unit by the end of September, and we will be in touch over the coming weeks with further details. OCR's examiners will be extra vigilant when overseeing the marking process and will use a range of tools to ensure that no candidate has gained an unfair advantage.

We apologise for the disruption caused by this decision, and for an earlier communication posted in error on our website on Friday before today's decision was reached.

If you have any queries about this notice, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998.