Common Issues with Unit 8

See also the **FAQ** on
http://community.ocr.org.uk/community/ocr_nationals_in_ict/home

General

- It is important that centres are vigilant when assessing work from this unit that they do not accept work that has simply been copied and pasted from websites. This is usually easy to spot and must be avoided – any work quoted by candidates must be clearly referenced to the source. Candidates must be made aware of the serious implications of plagiarism.

- Centres must be equally vigilant to ensure all the work in a candidate's portfolio is their own, individual, work and that it is not copied from or shared with other candidates.

Assessment Objective 1:

- This AO is about how technologies are used, and their effects on people, rather than how they work.

- 'The individual' may include candidates' own experiences, if and where appropriate.

- All candidates must clearly cover technology from at least **three** of the listed categories.

- All candidates must consider, for each technology, both *how* it is used and both *benefits* and *disadvantages.*

Assessment Objective 2

- Candidates frequently confuse an innovation with a product. Whilst a particular product may be used as an example, the focus of this AO must be on the innovation.

- Examples are listed in both the Knowledge, understanding and skills in the Unit specification and in the model assignment.

- It is important to ensure *all* Pass requirements are met before awarding any level:

    - its purpose

    - how it works

    - one benefit

    - one limitation.

Assessment Objective 3

- It is important that all candidates *specifically* consider the key points of choice, convenience and cost.

- Examples should be to illustrate the points made, rather than simply identifying examples of e-commerce websites.

Assessment Objective 4

- When investigating e-commerce websites it is important that candidates demonstrate a sound understanding of the whole process – not just browsing and choosing items. Understanding of payment methods, including the use of secure sites should also be shown. It is possible on many e-commerce websites to follow through to the payment screen.

- All candidates must identify the purpose and audience for the website investigated. 'Everyone' or 'all ages/genders' is not an appropriate identification of the audience. Examples of what makes particular features appeal to different target audiences is ideal – for example a music download site may have different styles of page to appeal to different musical tastes – but all customers will have access to common features such as the shopping cart.

Assessment Objective 5

- This is often the weakest part of the portfolio. It is not sufficient for candidates simply to list the main provisions of the Acts listed in the Knowledge, understanding and skills.

- The best examples can be found through news/current affairs via relevant websites and/or technology magazines.

- Moral issues: This is an essential element of this AO. Candidates should be encouraged to research issues which may affect them – such as issues involving the increased use of surveillance/security cameras; the issuing of Identity Cards etc.