

Guidance for teachers on the use of advance information for 2022

There is no reduction in the number of assessments for Information Technologies (as permitted by other Cambridge National subjects¹) due to the qualification only having two units. As we cannot free up time to mitigate the impact of disruption through a reduction in assessment, we have put advance information in place for unit R012 (Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions) to free up time normally spent in on timetabled revision lessons. We will use advance information in January and June 2022 series.

The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has disrupted the education of students sitting exams in 2022. The materials are intended to communicate, in advance, the focus of the content of the 2022 examination papers (January and June).

The materials may be used at any point from the date of release. The advance information cannot however be brought into the actual examinations.

There are a number of additional adaptations in place for this qualification, this includes:

- Unit level adaptations for all students due to take assessments in 2021/22
- Allowing work for assessment to be done from home
- Set assignment for unit R013 for January 2022 will be rolled over to June 2022

For further information regarding adaptations in place for Information Technologies in 2021/22, please see '[Changes for 2022](#)' on the OCR website.

¹ Advance information is only available for Cambridge Nationals in Information Technologies

What is advance information and what does it allow?

- Advance information is intended to communicate in advance some of the aspects of the Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies that will be assessed in unit R012.
- The information will detail the aspects of the Learning Outcomes that will be assessed in the 2022 exams.
- It will support revision in the time before the examination.
- We will provide the advance information approximately eight weeks before the exams, which is:
 - week beginning 15 November 2021 for the January 2022 series
 - week beginning 21 March 2022 for the June 2022 series.
- Advance information for the January 2022 series will be different from the advance information for June 2022.
- Advance information does not require any changes to a question paper's usual structure, which means that the examination assessments will:
 - be familiar to teachers and students.
 - allow continued relevance of associated assessment and teaching resources, including past papers.
 - support student confidence in minimising the unexpected in the layout or structure of question papers.
- Different qualifications require different advance information solutions to maximise the value of the approach, this might be the case if you also teach a General Qualification in Computer Science, for example. Overall, there will also be a variety of approaches across subjects. Where advance information is being used, all JCQ awarding organisations are working to the same principles in creating advance information.
- Advance information will only focus on what is included in an assessment.
- The advance information will not always detail everything that is in the examination. This would risk good education, progression, or fair results. It could also be unhelpful to teachers and students by, for example, listing topics that could lead to excessive teaching or revision on areas that are worth few marks.
- The advance information will not be at a level that allows questions to be predicted or answers prepared. Preparation should continue to focus on knowledge and understanding that can be applied appropriately in the context of unseen examination questions.
- We have made sure advance information does not undermine the value of the qualification in supporting student progression and will not directly provide answers to other, potentially low tariff, questions. Equally, it will not compromise the capability of the examinations to sufficiently differentiate between students' performances.

How should advance information be used and what will it look like?

- Advance information can be used from the point of release.
- It can be used flexibly by centres to achieve its purpose of supporting revision. For example, it might be used with students in developing revision plans for the exams and could be used in or outside of the classroom. It should not, however, be used to narrow teaching and learning.
- It cannot be brought into the examinations.
- The advance information is designed to be as accessible as possible. However, centres will be allowed to make reasonable adjustments as appropriate to ensure the information is accessible to all, including students with particular needs. OCR will continue to provide their usual support to teachers with advice and guidance on how to modify these notices.
- Examples of how the information will look in practice are shown below. It is important to note that the following are examples only and are provided solely to illustrate what the advance information will look like in practice. These examples are not based on the 2022 assessments and teachers should not assume that the aspects of the learning outcomes below will be or will not be included in advance information for exams in 2022.

Example: Bullet point lay out of the advance information

Learning Outcome 1

- 1.1.1 - The phases of the project life cycle and the tasks carried out in each phase.
- 1.3 - The inputs and outputs of each phase of the project life cycle.
- 1.4 - Initial project considerations.
- 1.5.4 - Software types used to develop project plans.

Further advice and support

We have worked hard to ensure the advance information is as clear as possible. However, if you are unsure or have any questions about the advance information when it is released, please contact us by:

Email: support@ocr.org.uk

Phone: **01223553998**