

GNVQ ICT
(intermediate)
Independent working

A number of centres are using learning materials (textbooks, 'online' courses) that present students with heavily structured tasks i.e. a set of step-by-step instructions that the students follow. The output from these learning assignments (which is all very similar) is then being presented as portfolio evidence for Intermediate level. Centres need to be aware that assignments of this type may prevent students from accessing Merit and Distinction grades.

The philosophy of the GNVQ Intermediate level – and especially Merit and Distinction grades – is that students adopt an independent approach to the solution of ICT problems for specified users. It is expected that *they* will decide (possibly with some support) how to structure a database or a spreadsheet, and *they* will decide what queries to create for their user, etc. Students operating at Merit and Distinction will be demonstrating originality in their solutions and the work will look different from all the other students in the cohort.

Open-ended assignments offer higher-ability students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of ICT systems in the selection and application of ICT tools and techniques to problems identified by a user. In contrast, highly structured assessment activities will generally limit attainment to Pass grade.