

Edexcel's GCSE short course in Citizenship Studies

Introduction

The teaching of Citizenship at Key stage 4 in England will be statutory from September 2002. Edexcel has developed a GCSE short course in Citizenship Studies, which is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum programme of study. The specification has been accredited by QCA for first examination in June 2003.

Key Features

- Based on the Key Stage 4 Citizenship programme of study in the National Curriculum
- Builds on best practice in the teaching and learning of Citizenship in schools
- Approach based on lively and topical themes
- Structured to encourage students of all abilities
- Innovative, flexible internal assessment encourages the use of presentations, ICT and oral work
- Allows for assessment of a compulsory part of the curriculum
- Both internally and externally assessed work can be based on a single Citizenship Activity
- Linked to other areas of the curriculum, e.g. English, Geography, History, Religious Studies
- Provides opportunities to deliver Key Skills

Support and Materials

- Inset programme to cover all aspects of the specification
- Specification Guide
- Student Guide
- Supporting textbook and CD ROM from Collins
- Support from regional subject advisors

Rationale

The new Edexcel GCSE short course in Citizenship Studies provides the opportunity for students' work and achievement in citizenship to be credited. Some students may be able to use work completed in other areas to satisfy aspects of the specification. Examples of existing activities, which may be used for this purpose include community service programmes, work experience activities and environmental projects.

Summary of Scheme of Assessment

The specification is divided into 2 papers.

Paper 1 Citizenship Today	
Written Paper 1 hour 15 minutes	60%
Paper 1 will be drawn from a Citizenship Activity and three themes : Theme 1: Human Rights Theme 2: Power, Politics and the Media Theme 3: The Global Village The paper is divided into three sections: Section A will require students to evaluate a Citizenship Activity Section B will contain data response questions Section C will consist of questions drawn from the three themes above The Citizenship Activity will be examined in Section A. Themes 1, 2 and 3 will be examined in Sections B and C.	
Paper 2 Participating in Society	
Internal Assessment Portfolio	40%
Students will be required to take part in a school or community-based activity and to reflect on the process of participation in the activity in a single assignment. Students will be required to complete a Front Sheet stating the nature of the assignment and a four-page Response Form containing the following sections: Section One: Planning Section Two: Activity Log Section Three: Communication: with supporting evidence Section Four: Evaluation This paper will be internally assessed and externally moderated	

Inset

From May 2002 we will be holding planning meetings. Details are in our new Citizenship Studies Inset guide and on our website www.edexcel.org.uk For further information please contact our Inset department on 020 7758 5620.

Further Information/ Contacts

If you are interested in obtaining more information on this or any other Edexcel qualification, please contact our Customer Response Centre on 0870 240 9800, fax 020 7758 6960, or email enquiries@edexcel.org.uk.