

## CiE IGCSE ICT (0417)

### Advice to parents and candidates planning to take IGCSE ICT at the NorthStarUK exam centre

The assessment structure for this specification does not have a coursework component. Instead it has three examination papers:

**Paper 1** – A 2-hour written paper assessing skills relevant to ‘Knowledge and Understanding’ (of ICT). It is worth 40% of the overall mark. The paper will contain mainly questions requiring a short response, a word, a phrase or one or two sentences, although there will be some questions requiring a more extended response. There will be no choice of questions. This paper will be taken on the specified date and time set by CIE, at the NSUK exam centre.

The questions will test the following sections:

Components of a computer system	Data types
Input and output devices	The effects of using IT
Storage devices and media	The ways in which IT is used
Computer networks	Systems analysis and design

**Papers 2 and 3** – Two 2 hour 30 minute practical tests assessing the following practical skills:

Communication output	Data
Document production	Data analysis
Data manipulation	Website authoring
Integration (of software packages together)	Presentation authoring

The two practical tests will each comprise a number of tasks to be taken under controlled conditions at the NSUK Examinations Centre. The practical tests focus on the candidate’s ability to carry out practical tasks rather than to explain the theory of how the tasks are completed. The two practical tests are each worth 30% of the overall assessment (60% combined).

Candidates will be provided with computers at the NSUK exam centre to undertake these practical tests. The computers run Windows 7 (which includes applications like Notepad) and the following software - Microsoft Office 2010, Firefox, SeaMonkey(browser and web editor) and OpenOffice. If students have worked with other applications, it may be possible to provide these, if they are open source (i.e. NSUK does not need to pay for the license to use the software). We are not able to temporarily install applications that students may have used on their own computers.

#### **Practical Tests will take place on the following dates:**

Practical Test A Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (AM or PM)

Practical Test B Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March (AM or PM)

Please note that we will allocate the candidate to a morning or afternoon session. Once allocated this cannot be altered.

**A Practice Day has been set aside on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March (AM or PM) for students to attend the NSUK exam centre and attempt a practical past paper, in test conditions.**

**PLACES AT THE EXAM CENTRE ARE SEVERELY LIMITED and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.**