



## Driver or mechanic? your questions answered

**Q** Is GCSE ICT just for computer experts?

**A** Not at all. GCSE ICT will qualify you to operate confidently in today's digital world. It doesn't teach you how computers work or how to program them, but it does show you how to use ICT effectively and safely. It's like the difference between a good driver and a mechanic - you don't need to know all about what's under the bonnet to be a good driver. GCSE ICT is a useful, real-world qualification, whether you see your future including university, training or going out to work.

**Q** Can I go on to specialise in IT later?

**A** Yes, but there's no need to decide now. GCSE ICT will look good on your CV whatever you go on to do. Today virtually all workers need to be confident operators of digital devices. Taking GCSE ICT will give you valuable digital know-how which is a key skill that you can use in all walks of life.

**Q** I'm interested, what should I do now?

**A** The first thing to do is talk to your parents about making ICT one of your GCSE choices. It's a good idea to show them this guide so they can see what you'll be learning and appreciate how relevant it is to further study and the world of work. If you or your parents have any questions, arrange to see your ICT teacher or ask them for more details at your GCSE Options Evening.

# The future's digital so get in the picture

Get yourself the  
latest must-have  
GCSE in ICT



**Put GCSE ICT on your CV!**

GCSE ICT Student Guide

A PEARSON COMPANY

# Now you can build on your everyday skills to net a valuable GCSE

## GCSE ICT – possibly the most exciting GCSE ever invented?

How old are you? If you're making your GCSE choices now you're probably 14. Did you know that in the year you were born only 4% of the world's population had access to the internet?

Which is why back in 1995, shopping, chatting or researching homework on a computer seemed incredible. But now, just 14 years later, over 25% of the human race have been online and the world wide web has transformed the way we communicate and do business.

And that's just the net. Other advances in digital technology have revolutionised our phones, our cameras, our cars – even the way we watch TV.

You've lived through the most significant decade yet in information and communication technologies and you're the people who understand and use them the most. So who better than you to notch up a GCSE in a subject you already know so much about?

You've done the groundwork, now get the qualification

### Have you ever?

With GCSE ICT you'll find out...

Thought up a password for a social networking site like Facebook, Bebo or MySpace?

How to create a high-strength, maximum security password.

Chosen a mobile phone after considering networks, charges and features?

How to select the optimum model mobile phone for a range of different usage requirements.

Gone shopping online? (Before you get your parents to pay!)

About the good, the bad and the ugly of online shopping – from 24/7 availability, easy price comparison and pre-purchase product feedback, to long waits, delivery charges and identity theft.

## DON'T BANK ON IT!

You get an email that says it's from your bank. But you've spotted clues that make you suspicious.

This kind of email is called:

- A cookie
- Spyware
- Phishing
- Networking

With GCSE ICT you'll learn about digital devices in:

Learning and earning

Leisure

Shopping

Money management

Health and well being

Connecting people on the move



20 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute!

## Imagine

a day without your mobile. How would you cope?

GCSE ICT considers the long-term impact on people who can't access digital technology, as well as on those who can.

## What makes GCSE ICT such a good choice for you?

- It's future-proofed**  
So when new technologies come on stream you'll learn about them and ditch anything that's past its sell-by.
- You'll have a head start**  
You'll be building on stuff you already know - a bit like taking a GCSE in a long-held interest.
- It's relevant**  
Whatever you choose to do later, the skills you learn will help you; at university, at work, in managing your money and operating online.

**GCSE ICT  
NEW & IMPROVED  
FOR 2010**

**Data sources:**  
Internet use worldwide, December 1995: 16 million = 0.4 % of world population. September 2009: 1,734 million = 25.6 % of world population. Source: www.internetworldstats.com  
YouTube upload figures, Source: YouTube Press Fact Sheet 12/09

**DON'T BANK ON IT! - the correct answer is c. Phishing**  
It's email fraud when criminals try to get sensitive information (like bank details) by pretending to be a trustworthy organisation. These are some clues to look for:  
• 'Dear Valued Customer' instead of your name • Grammar or spelling mistakes • URL doesn't point to the organisation's website • URL doesn't match the email address • MOST IMPORTANTLY - asking you for secure details is something a real bank would never do!