

GCSE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

This qualification is available as:

- a digital authoring qualification focusing on multimedia, GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia); and
- a digital development qualification focusing on programming, GCSE Digital Technology (Programming).
- All students study Unit 1: Digital Technology. They then choose either the multimedia or the programming route and study the relevant two units for their chosen route.
- Students cannot combine units from each route; they can only be entered for Units 1, 2 and 3 or Units 1, 4 and 5.
- The content relates directly to current software development trends and the study of modern technology based systems.
- The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software or in an object-oriented environment.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

This specification aims to encourage students to:

- acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a range of contexts;
- acquire creative and technical digital technology skills and apply these in a range of contexts;
- develop and evaluate digital technology based solutions to solve problems;
- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies;
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental impact of digital technology;
- recognise potential risks when using digital technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice; and
- develop the skills needed to work collaboratively.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software or in an object-oriented environment. It provides a sound basis for further study in both GCE Digital Technology and GCE Software Systems Development.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for students to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities will be dependent on the teaching and learning methodology used. Although not referred to separately as a statutory requirement at Key Stage 4 in the Northern Ireland Curriculum, Managing Information and Being Creative may also remain relevant to learning.

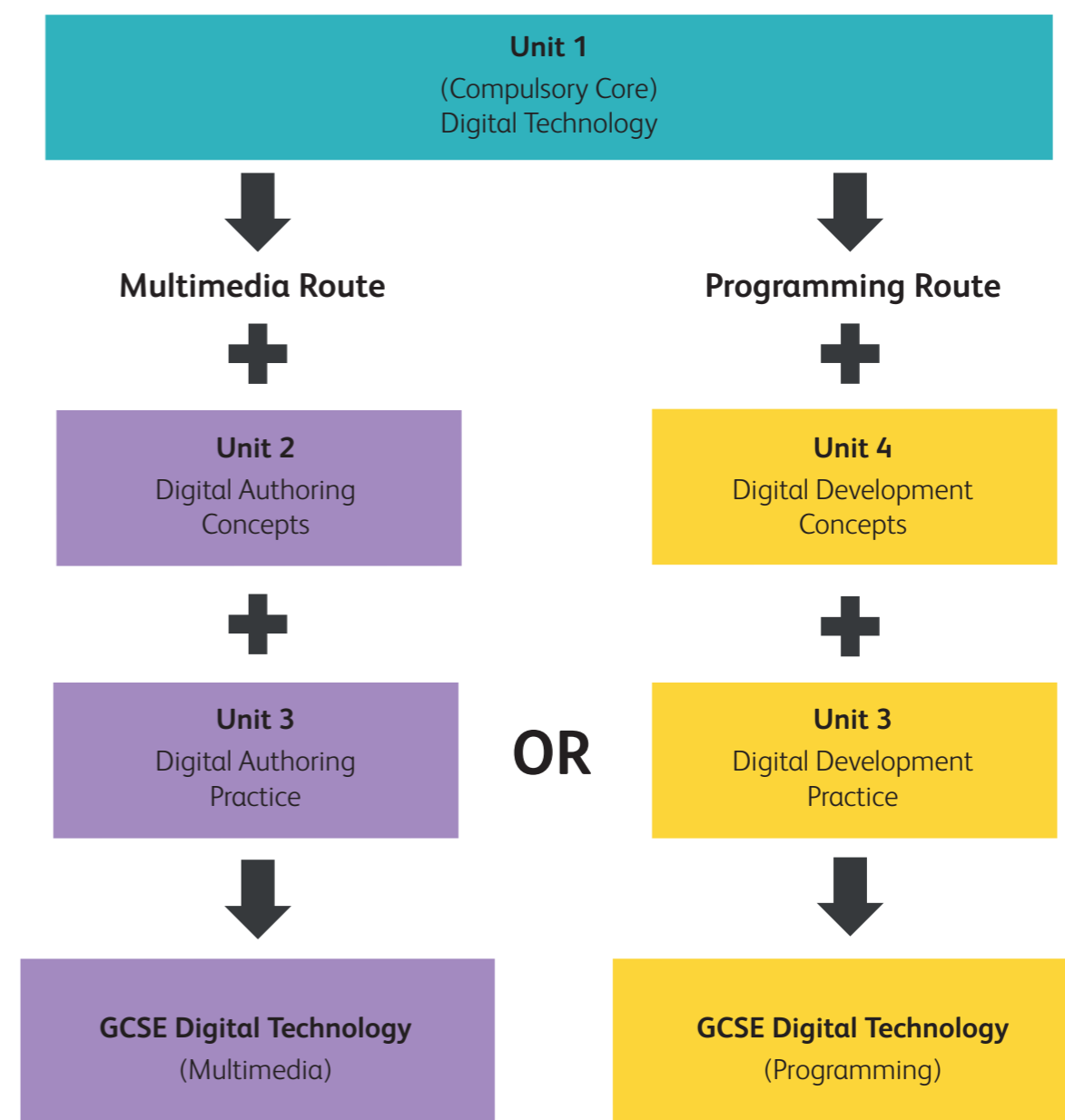
UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION? IMPROVEMENTS MADE?

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CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT



ROUTE A: MULTIMEDIA

CONTENT		ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Compulsory core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hour	30%	Summer from 2018
	Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	40%	Summer from 2019
	Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice	Controlled assessment	30%	Summer from 2019

ROUTE B: PROGRAMMING

CONTENT		ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING	AVAILABILITY
Compulsory core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hour	30%	Summer from 2018
	Unit 4: Digital Development Concepts	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	40%	Summer from 2019
	Unit 5: Digital Development Practice	Controlled assessment	30%	Summer from 2019

SUPPORTING YOU

We intend to provide:

- past papers;
- mark schemes;
- Chief Examiner's reports;
- Principal Moderator's reports;
- guidance on progression from Key Stage 3;
- planning frameworks;
- centre support visits;
- support days for teachers; and
- fact files.

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COUNCIL FOR THE CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT



For first teaching from September 2017
For first assessment in Summer 2018
For first award in Summer 2019

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