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CiDA

Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications

from 2012
Inspiring. Creative. Contemporary.

Your guide to our next generation qualification
Part of the DiDA suite of qualifications

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Introducing CiDA from 2012

On behalf of the ICT and computing team, I'm delighted to introduce our next generation **Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)** for level 2 learners. CiDA from 2012 has been developed from the popular DiDA qualifications, and has been refocused around **creative computing**, empowering learners to play an active, creative role in the development of digital products. Replacing AiDA, this qualification is tailor-made to meet the needs of today's creative industries, and includes content on website development, imaging, creative multimedia and computer game production.

If you loved teaching the DiDA suite, you'll be pleased to know that we have kept the changes to a minimum, whilst redeveloping the qualification to comply with the Government's recommendations for high-quality vocational qualifications. CiDA from 2012 is the first qualification in the DiDA suite to be redeveloped to meet these recommendations. The rest of the suite will be redeveloped in 2013/14. You can find further information on the back page of this guide.

We are extremely proud of this new qualification, and we look forward to discussing it with you. In the meantime, I'll let **Gareth Byrne**, your ICT subject advisor, tell you more about what CiDA can do for your learners.

Rod Smith

MD, Vocational & Applied, Pearson UK

CiDA and School Performance Measures

For schools in England, CiDA from 2012 is included on the list of qualifications that will be recognised in the 5 A*-C headline measures in the 2015 performance tables for Key Stage 4.

For full details visit www.btec.co.uk/headlinemeasures.

Your guide to CiDA from 2012

As you can see from Rod's introduction, we're very excited about our next generation Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), and we'd like to tell you about it. We've produced this guide to:

- introduce you to the new qualification
- explain what the developments mean for you and your learners
- highlight the support available to help you make the transition from your current IT qualification.

Why choose CiDA from 2012 for your learners?

Unleash learners' creative potential. CiDA promotes the creative use of digital applications, helping learners make the move from consumers to producers of digital content.

Inspiring and challenging. Learners that enjoy using digital products will love this qualification. Its real-life, outcome-driven approach inspires and challenges learners to demonstrate what they know and are able to do in real-world contexts. The project-based nature of CiDA allows learners to progress at their own speed and show what they can do.

Contemporary. Learners use modern software applications to create exciting digital products in real world contexts and showcase them in an e-portfolio

External Assessment

CiDA from 2012 includes some external assessment, which comprises 25% of the total assessment for the qualification. To help you prepare, we provide sample assessment materials for the externally assessed unit, which will give you a flavour of the assessment. **Learn more about external assessment on page 6**.

Supporting you

We're committed to providing a full range of support for our next generation CiDA, and we will continue to keep in touch throughout the year when we have more information. In the meantime, **turn to pages 6 and 7**, where you'll find information and links to a number of useful support resources.

We look forward to working with you on the next generation CiDA.
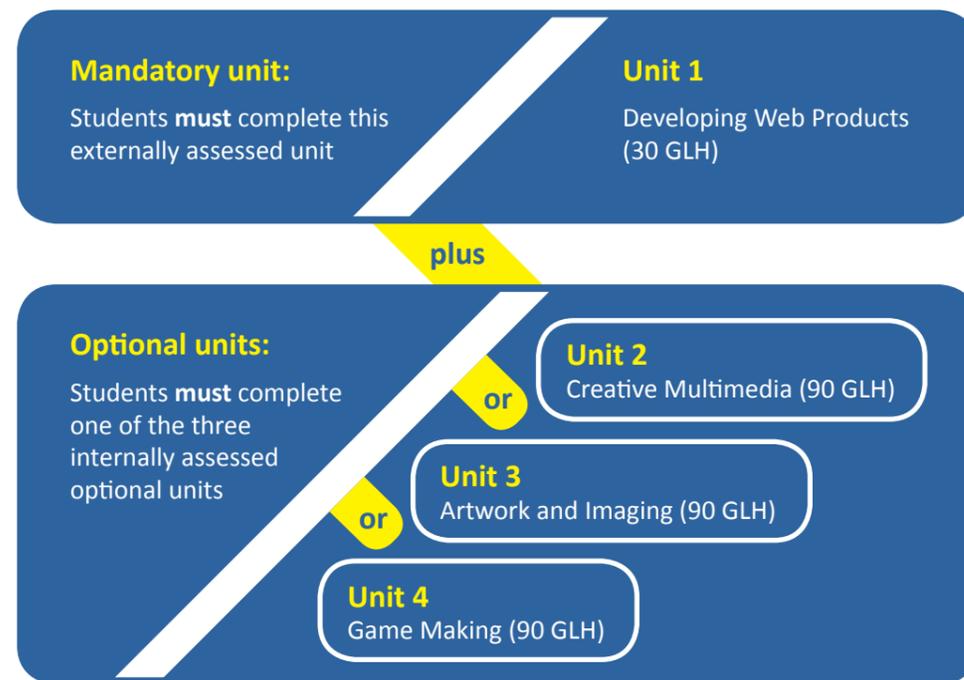
Gareth Byrne

ICT Subject Advisor

Creative Computing:
An exciting part of the UK's growing tech industry

The UK has thriving creative industries, which are driven by a tech-savvy workforce. Website development, graphic design and multimedia production have become integral activities to businesses looking to leverage the power of the web, and those who have skills in these areas are becoming increasingly attractive to employers. The UK computer games industry is among the largest in the world, and with recent government changes offering tax relief for UK developers, is set to continue to grow.

Creative computing combines IT with creative, arts-based subjects such as media and design. Many technology companies now demand that employees have both a highly-tuned digital skillset, and a creative, ideas-driven approach. Developed with these roles in mind, **CiDA from 2012** helps prepare learners for a career in the creative industries, whilst also providing skills essential to digital roles in workplaces of all kinds.

Structure

CiDA from 2012 is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH) and comprises two units: one externally assessed unit with a practical exam (25%), and one internally assessed optional unit (75%), with three options to choose from.

Mandatory unit:
Students **must** complete this externally assessed unit

Unit 1
Developing Web Products (30 GLH)

plus

Optional units:
Students **must** complete one of the three internally assessed optional units

or

Unit 2
Creative Multimedia (90 GLH)

or

Unit 3
Artwork and Imaging (90 GLH)

Unit 4
Game Making (90 GLH)

Units

Unit 1: Developing Web Products (30 GLH)

When surfing the web, what captures your attention?
Acting as a starting point for the qualification, this mandatory unit gives learners the knowledge and skills they need to produce attention-grabbing and interactive web products using web authoring software, multimedia assets and navigation features. The assessment is a practical computer-based examination to develop a prototype website.

Software skills
Web authoring software
e.g.
• Adobe Dreamweaver
• Microsoft Front Page
• Serif WebPlus
and more

Unit 2: Creative Multimedia (90 GLH)

From websites to video games, almost all digital products contain multimedia (text, images, sound, video and interactive components). This optional unit gives learners the skills to use the tools and techniques provided by multimedia authoring software to design and create effective multimedia products. Learners will demonstrate their ability to plan, design, build and test these interactive products through their work on a major project. This will include the development of an eportfolio to showcase their achievements.

Software skills
Multimedia software
e.g.
• Adobe Photoshop
• Audacity
• Final Cut
and more

Unit 3: Artwork and Imaging (90 GLH)

Whether advertising a product or enhancing digital content, images are all around us, influencing what we do and how we think. Unit 3 gives the learner skills to use artwork and imaging software to design and create effective graphic products. Learners will demonstrate their ability on a major project which will include exhibiting their work and supporting evidence in an e-portfolio.

Software skills
Artwork and imaging software
e.g.
• Adobe Illustrator
• Adobe Fireworks
• Adobe Photoshop
and more

Unit 4: Game Making (90 GLH)

The computer games industry is a growing sector of the economy. In this unit learners will find out about different types of computer games, investigate what makes a game successful and learn how to plan, design and create great games. This unit takes a holistic approach to the assessment of knowledge, understanding and skills. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content through how well they perform the tasks in the project brief.

Software skills
Gamemaking and multimedia software
e.g.
• Gamemaker
• Adobe Flash
• Adobe Fireworks
• World Creator
and more

Your guide to CiDA from 2012

Balanced Assessment.
More Support.

Level 2 CiDA from 2012 has been developed in consultation with schools and colleges across the country to comply with the Government's Review of Vocational Education, 2011 (The Wolf Report). Mixing creativity with technical understanding, CiDA offers something unique for level 2 learners, and we have developed an assessment model to ensure that candidates are examined on their capability as well as knowledge.

You've told us that the learning aims and assessment objectives needed greater clarity, so we've worked hard to improve these. We've also introduced an element of external assessment, which comprises 25% of the total assessment for the qualification.

Assessment

Units	Type of Assessment	Support material
Unit 1: Developing Web Products	**External Assessment: Practical Examination** The practical examination for this unit is set and marked by Pearson, and lasts two and a half hours. Candidates are expected to use web authoring and other software tools to build and test a web-based product. Assessment opportunities will be twice a year, in January and June, starting in January 2014.	**Sample Assessment Material (SAMs)** SAMs comprise a sample task, mark scheme, web assets and instructions for the conduct of the examination.
Unit 2: Creative Multimedia **Unit 3: Artwork and Imaging** **Unit 4: Game Making**	**Internal Assessment: Summative Project** There is one Summative Project Brief (SPB) for each optional unit. The Summative Project is an assessed piece of synoptic work that learners produce to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding they have acquired throughout the unit. Summative Project Briefs are set by Pearson, administered and marked by the centre, and moderated by Pearson. The first set of SPBs is available at **www.edexcel.com/cida-2012**	**Sample SPBs** **Moderator's Toolkit** **Controlled Assessment Guidance**

Evolution not Revolution:
Making the transition from DiDA

Next Generation Level 2 CiDA has been redeveloped to replace AiDA (90 GLH), its much-loved predecessor. Those that taught the DiDA suite will be pleased to know that we have kept the changes to a minimum, whilst updating the qualification to make it more relevant and inspiring.

To help make the transition as easy as possible, we've created a handy **mapping document** that compares the individual units of the existing DiDA suite against the CiDA from 2012 units. Visit **www.edexcel.com/cida-2012** for the mapping document and other useful support documents.

How does CiDA from 2012 differ from DiDA?

Rigourous and contemporary: The assessment objectives and weightings have been revised, and there is now 25% external assessment. Following the Government's review of vocational qualifications in England, CiDA from 2012 has been included in the DfE's 2015 Headline Measures list. For more information visit **www.btec.co.uk/headlinemeasures**.

Less emphasis on digital literacy and more on creative computing: *Unit 1: Developing Web Products* is a completely new unit, replacing *Using ICT* from the old DiDA suite.

Grading has changed from Distinction, Merit, Credit and Pass to A*, A, B and C.

Support for CiDA from 2012

As well as the mapping document, you'll find the specification and assessment support material at **www.edexcel.com/cida-2012**, including the accredited specification, sample assessment materials (SAMs), Summative Project Briefs (SPBs) and a teachers' toolkit.

Also, keep an eye out for forthcoming **training events**, which we will be holding throughout the year to ensure you have the information and support you need to deliver our next generation CiDA qualification with confidence.

www.edexcel.com/cida-2012

www.edexcel.com/cida-2012

More flexibility from next generation DiDA

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Following the introduction of the new Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications, you told us that you'd like more flexibility from the suite.

To answer this need, we're developing qualifications at additional sizes and levels.

Qualification name	GLH	First teaching
Level 1 Certificate in Digital Applications	120	Spring 2014*
Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications	120	September 2012
Level 1 Diploma in Digital Applications	240	Spring 2014*
Level 2 Diploma in Digital Applications	240	Spring 2014*

*Subject to accreditation from Ofqual; dates subject to change

These new qualifications will follow the structure and assessment models of Level 2 CiDA.

All content in this guide is correct as of June 2013, but is subject to change.

For all the latest information on Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA) visit

www.edexcel.com/cida-2012

You can also contact your **ICT subject advisor Gareth Byrne**, who is on hand to help with any queries you might have on the next generation CiDA and DiDA qualifications, the existing DiDA suite, or our ICT and computing qualifications in general.

You can call Gareth and his team on **0844 372 2186** or reach him by email at **TeachingICT@pearson.com**.

You can also follow him on Twitter **@PearsonICT**.