Unit 3: Creating Digital Text - Software and Suitability

What digital texts are suitable for Unit 3 and what software would you recommend?

Website
Using software such as *WebPlus* or the free site www.wix.com have proven successful by centres in previous series. *Dreamweaver* is the professional standard software, used by some departments. However, this is a sophisticated piece of software and this level of ICT knowledge is not necessary for this qualification. *iWeb* on the mac also produces top quality web pages, without the equivalent ICT skills needed.

Blog
Using web based packages such as www.blogger.com can produce a successful digital text – if there is sufficient evidence of components, such as images, sound, moving image, text, etc. produced by the candidate. The number of blogs written needs to be proportionate to the work put into a 2 or 3 minute digital video or a 5 page website.

Podcast
Sites such as www.audacity.sourceforge.net offer free sound recording software. The mixing of sounds is possibly easier with mac software such as *Garageband* but the difference is marginal, as both pieces of software tend to work in the same way.

Digital video
This includes TV and Film, as well as videos posted on the internet. *Windows Movie Maker* on the PC or *iMovie* on the mac often come free with the hardware. *Final Cut* on the mac is the industry standard software and can produce some amazing results. The mac is designed to deal with the high data use caused by video editing and many suggest the mac offers a much smoother experience when making digital videos.

Visual podcast
These can be produced in software also intended to produce digital video. Therefore, *Windows Movie Maker* on the PC or *iMovie* on the mac.

No list of digital texts can remain exhaustive, considering the fast pace of change that occurs in the digital world. This list of texts merely demonstrates the variety and breadth of digital text that can be produced and analysed.

What digital texts are not suitable for Unit 3?

The following are also digital texts and will be offered for analysis in Unit 2, but are **not** suitable texts for the production unit, Unit 3.
- Social networking sites including sites such as *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Bebo*.
- Forums
- Online advertisements

How can we submit our digital text for moderation?

Websites can be saved as a HTML file which can be opened by the moderator using Internet Explorer, without the need for the site to be live. However, if you have published the site then sending the link to the moderator is appropriate, as they will be able to view it live on the internet.

Digital videos should be burned to a DVD, as should podcasts and digital podcasts.

Blogs can also be saved as offline HTML files and sent to the moderator on a disk. However, the moderator can also be sent the address for the blog, should it be published.

Ultimately, the digital text must work in a "real world" fashion. This means that the video, podcast and visual podcast should play as one overall complete text. A website should have working links and working components, as should a blog. Centres need to prove that candidates can be rewarded on Section B of the assessment criteria for Unit 3 by producing a text that stands up to "real world" scrutiny.