

GCSE PE: FAQs

1) *Why has the GCSE in PE been redeveloped?*

- Most of the GCSEs have been redeveloped, so they are inline with the new subject criteria by QCA. A copy of the subject criteria can be viewed on: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/pe/Pages/default.aspx>
- The national curriculum for Key Stage 4 has changed.
- Edexcel has also taken the opportunity to make some changes to the specification, eg increasing the range of activities that can be done as a practical performance.

2) *What are the main changes to the GCSE in PE?*

- Much of the content will be familiar to Edexcel centres. Our market research and consultation showed that the current GCSE in PE is popular, and Edexcel have sought, where possible, to keep the changes as minimal as possible.
- Changes to the theoretical content include: re-arranging content into 2 sections (as opposed to the three it is currently), the addition of new content (eg influences on healthy, active lifestyles and new terms in the glossary) and deletion of some content (eg content on anatomy and physiology). The main difference is the change in focus from anatomy and physiology to the impact of a healthy, active lifestyle on the body systems.
- The Personal exercise Programme (PEP) is now worth more marks in the GCSE in PE.
- Activities which can be offered for the practical performance have been re-grouped into the new activity areas inline with the new national curriculum.
- The activity list has increased to include: Amateur boxing, American football, Handball, Ice hockey, Ju-jitsu, Polo, Tae kwon do, Ice dance, Clay pigeon shooting, Cross country, Cycling, Lawn bowls, Mountain biking, Surfing, Wakeboarding, Water skiing, and Fitness Training options (yoga, body pump and pilates).
- Furthermore, it is now possible to offer performances as a leader and/or official. This gives students the opportunity to specialise further in one activity (eg play, umpire and coach hockey, with a performance in another activity from a different activity group). Please see the new specification for further details, also the Teacher's Handbook outlines the changes in the GCSE in PE.

3) *What is 'controlled assessment'? Is that just a practical exam?*

- Controlled assessment has been brought into all GCSEs with 'internal assessment', to combat problems that were associated with uncontrolled coursework, eg plagiarism. The impact on PE has been minimal compared to other subjects.
- Within Edexcel's specification, the main change is that there is just one 'terminal' mark for each practical activity, rather than one mark during the course and one at the end. This assessment must be made within a set window, and is not a practical exam.

- 4) *What are the main changes to the exams?*
- Overarching GCSE requirements mean that the written examination must now assess the quality of written communication (QWC) and incorporate longer-answer questions.
 - The biggest change is to the Short Course written examination, which will now consist of a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions and one longer-answer question.
 - The new Full course paper is now out of 80 marks (rather than 150 marks), and contains two longer-answer questions at the end of the exam.
- 5) *What are the key dates I need to know in relation to the new specification?*
- October 2008: Final specification, sample assessment materials and teacher's handbook is available on the Edexcel website.
 - September 2009: first teaching of the new specification.
 - June series 2010: first examination for the GCSE (Short Course).
 - June series 2011: first examination for the GCSE.
- 6) *Where can I get further information about the new GCSE in PE?*
- Please see the Edexcel website, for details of latest news, training opportunities, and copies of the specification, sample assessment and support materials for GCSE PE.
 - You can sign up for automatic updates about GCSE PE at: <http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2009/pe>
 - If you have further questions not covered by our FAQs, try our Ask the Expert service, details of which can be found at: www.edexcel.com/asktheexpert
 - Alternatively, try giving one of PE subject advisors a call on: 0844 576 0036.
- 7) *My student wants to offer an activity that is not listed in the specification. How can they do this?*
- If the centre applies, students may be able to offer certain unlisted activities, via the Meeting Local Needs process. Unlisted activities must meet the criteria outlined in the specification (see page 41), and be available to the whole GCSE cohort (via curricular or extra-curricular activities). Edexcel reserves the right to amend, modify, or refuse applications.