

IGCSE Development Studies (0453)

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there different tiers of entry for IGCSE Development Studies?

No – all the grades are available and the question papers are not differentiated in terms of tiers.

Is coursework required for IGCSE Development Studies?

No. The syllabus was revised for examination in 2008 and Coursework is no longer available as an option.

When is the examination available?

The syllabus is available in the November examination session. It is no longer available in June.

How many exams must my students sit?

The revised syllabus has 2 written papers:

Paper 1 is worth 80 marks (2 hours) and consists of structured questions based upon stimulus material. Candidates will be expected to answer the four compulsory questions drawn from the whole curriculum, involving primarily, but not exclusively, the demonstration of knowledge and understanding.

Paper 2 is also worth 80 marks (2 hours) and consists of a number of compulsory structured questions based upon several pieces of related source material. Questions will mainly test the skills of analysis and evaluation of evidence along with investigation and decision making.

What has happened to the Alternative to Coursework paper?

Coursework is no longer available for the syllabus from the 2008 examination therefore there is no longer any need for an Alternative to Coursework paper. However teachers will notice that some of the features of the Alternative to Coursework paper have been incorporated into the new Paper 2.

What support materials are available?

- Syllabus
- Specimen papers and mark schemes
- Past question papers and mark schemes
- Scheme of work
- Reports on past examinations

They can be obtained from CIE Publications or the Teacher Support website.