

Computer Science A Level

Exam Board: AQA Computer Science

The specification puts computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

The key features of the course are:

emphasis on problem solving using computers

emphasis on computer programming and algorithms

emphasis on the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes e.g. Boolean algebra / logic and algorithm comparison

A Level Assessment

Component	Assessment	Weighting	Duration
Paper 1 Emphasis on algorithms and programming	Externally marked paper	40%	2 hr 30 mins
Paper 2 Emphasis on computer systems	Externally marked paper	40%	2 hr 30 mins
Non-exam assessment	Internally assessed	20%	

Entry requirements

There is a much greater emphasis on maths and problem solving for this new specification and students must have at least a grade 6 in Maths and a 6 in Computer Science (If studied) at GCSE.

Students should be aware that there is a clear pathway from GCSE computer science to A level and having gained a GCSE in the subject is an advantage but not necessary.

For more information, help or advice about Computer Science A level contact:

Pete Temperton

0116 2879921

BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LEVEL 3

Extended Certificate – equivalent to 1 A Level

Who is this qualification for?

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is equivalent in size to one A Level. It is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

What does this qualification cover?

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors. Learners will study four units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (*written exam - set and marked externally*)

This unit is externally assessed through a written examination set and marked by the exam board.

The examination is two hours in length. Learners will be assessed on their understanding of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (*5hr supervised assessment - set and marked externally*)

This unit is externally assessed through a task set and marked by the exam board.

The set task will be completed under supervised conditions for 5 hours over two days (3 hours on day one and 2 hours on day two). The set task will assess learners' ability to design, create, test and evaluate a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business (*Assignment – set and marked internally*)

In this unit learners will explore the impact of social media on the ways in which businesses promote their products and services. Develop a plan to use social media in a business to meet requirements and implement the use of social media in a business.

Unit 6: Website Development (*Assignment – set and marked internally*)

In this unit learner will understand the principles of website development, design a website to meet client requirements and develop a website to meet client requirements.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to progress to a degree in an information technology or a degree where information technology related skills and knowledge may be advantageous.

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. As the content is equivalent in size to one A Level.

Entry requirements

Students must have at least a grade 4 in GCSE Maths, grade 5 in English Language and (if studied) a Merit in ICT.

If you require any further information on ICT, please contact
Kalpa Madlani on 0116 2879921