



AQA A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why choose AQA for AS and A-level Computer Science?

Relevant to the classroom and the real world Advances in computing are transforming the way we work and our new Computer Science specifications are changing with the times. We've worked closely with teachers to develop our popular qualifications, refreshing the content where needed but retaining the most popular and effective aspects of the previous specifications. This evolutionary approach has built on strong foundations to deliver flexible, accessible and rigorous qualifications, backed by top quality support, resources and professional development. Without the need for huge changes we're delighted to present up-to-date specifications that focus on the knowledge, understanding and skills students need to progress to higher education or thrive in the workplace.

What we study:

- ✓ Fundamentals of programming
- ✓ Fundamentals of data structures
- ✓ Fundamentals of algorithms
- ✓ Theory of computation
- ✓ Fundamentals of data Representation
- ✓ Fundamentals of computer systems
- ✓ Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- ✓ Consequences of uses of computing
- ✓ Fundamentals of communication and networking
- ✓ Fundamentals of databases
- ✓ Big Data Fundamentals of functional programming
- ✓ Systematic approach to problem

Entry Requirements:

You need to gain a Level 7 in Mathematics and a Level 6 in Science

HOW IT'S ASSESSED

Paper 1

What's assessed: this paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science from subject content 10-13 above and the skills required from section 22 above.

Assessed

- On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Students answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an Electronic Answer Document provided by us.

We will issue Preliminary Material, a Skeleton Program (available in each of the Programming Languages) and, where appropriate, test data, for use in the exam.

Paper 2

What's assessed: this paper tests a student's ability to answer questions from subject content 14-21 above.

Assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A-level

Questions

Compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

Non-exam assessment

What's assessed: the non-exam assessment assesses student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 22 above.

Assessed

- 75 marks
- 20% of A-level