

GCSE Computer Science





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Course Title	AQA GCSE Computer Science 9-1 (8525)
Website	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/gcse/computer-science-8525



Course Overview

Students taking GCSE Computer Science will be taught:

- How to design and structure efficient and effective programs in Python
- How to debug and test programs
- The fundamentals of data representation
- How computer systems and computer networks function
- The importance of cyber security
- How to design and use databases and SQL
- The ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society



Entry Requirements

Although there are no entry requirements for Computer Science we strongly advise that you have a target grade for Maths of a 4 or above.

GCSE Computer Science relies on logical thinking and problem solving. Over half of the assessments require solid understanding of algorithms and their structure.



Assessment

Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills

This paper assesses: computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE



Assessment

Paper 2: Computing concepts

This paper assesses: the fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer networks, cyber security, databases and SQL and the ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE



Additional information

Computer Science GCSE has a natural progression to further study either on the A Level course in Computer Science or similar courses in colleges.

Computer Science and its associated subjects offer an excellent career path in the UK. These areas include: engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

Specialist Computer Science courses are available at most universities and colleges, these include: Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Security, Networking and Hardware Development.