

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The vast majority of us use computers in our day-to-day lives for everything from gaming and communicating by email or on social media to finding information, paying our bills and shopping. Computer Science is a dynamic and rapidly growing area that has become an integral part of the world that we live in today. Computer Science will give you the skills to access one of the fastest growing industries worldwide. It will encourage you to think creatively, analytically and logically about ways to solve problems using computer programs.

Exam Board	Paper Specification	Subject Type
AQA	8525	Option
Qualification Awarded		
GCSE Computer Science		

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1	<p>Computational Thinking and Programming Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing, and refining of code.• Written exam, 2 hours, 90 marks• 50% of GCSE
Paper 2	<p>Computing Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes data representation, computer systems, computer networks, cyber security, databases & SQL, computing & ethics.• Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks• 50% of GCSE

EXPECTATIONS

AQA Computer Science has a broad curriculum encouraging students to think creatively, analytically and logically, and solve problems by creating solutions. The course provides an excellent foundation to move into A Level Computer Science or any IT related field. Homework Tasks will be both paper and computer based depending on the topic at the time. For many programming tasks, we use Python and students can either download Python IDLE or use Trinket.io in their web browser.

It is best if you have a keen interest in computers and how computers and programming works. If you are aware of and have practiced at home a programming language this will really help. Practice your programming skills at home whenever you can and stay on top of the theory work by using web revision resources.