Why study this subject?

GCSE Computer Science is an exciting course that gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how

computers work and how they are used. You will learn how to write computer programs and develop

problem solving skills. Some of the current investigations withing the subject look at Computational

Thinking (CT), algorithms, programming, cyber security, data representation, relational database and

SQL.

What is the course structure?

Course content and structure

1. Fundamentals of algorithms

2. Programming

3. Fundamentals of data representation

4. Computer systems

5. Fundamentals of computer networks

6. Cyber security

7. Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)

8. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including

issues of privacy

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1

Computational thinking, code tracing, problemsolving, programming concepts including the design

of effective algorithms and the designing, writing,

testing and refining of code.

The content for this assessment will be drawn from

subject content 1 and 2 above.

How it's assessed?

• Written exam: 2 hours

• 90 marks

• 50% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answers and longer

answer questions assessing programming, practical

problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

Paper 2

The content for this assessment will be drawn from

subject content 3 to 8 above

How it's assessed?

• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

• 90 marks

• 50% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and

extended response questions assessing SQL programming

skills and theoretical knowledge.

How does it link to further study or careers?

The course is excellent preparation for Computing, Programming and Software Engineering degrees. Later areas

of work include app and game design, engineering, cyber security, software development, financial and resource

management, science and even medicine.

Where can you find out more information?

GCSE Specification: AQA GCSE Computer Science (8525)

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