https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/

Our new GCSE (9-1) Computer Science builds on the previous qualification development in this field. Relevant

to the modern, changing world of computing, it is designed to boost computing skills essential for 21st century.

Why choose Computer Science?

• Engaging and contemporary – We have links with companies such as Microsoft, Google and Cisco,

organisations like Computing At School (CAS), plus teachers and academics in this field.

• Focus on cyber security – It looks at phishing, malware, firewalls and people as the ‘weak point’ in

secure systems, which students will study for the first time at this level.

• A greater emphasis on ‘computational thinking’ –This new course will allow students to learn the

theory and apply it in real life situations, in any computing language.

• Encourages mental versatility – Students use their new-found programming skills on coding projects

set by their teacher.

• Support and guidance – Students have access to excellent resources, to help you enhance your own

computer science knowledge and skills

• Computer Science is part of the English Baccalaureate.

Course Content

Computer Systems - written paper (1 hour 30 minutes) 50%

• Systems Architecture

• Memory

• Storage

• Wired and wireless networks

• Network topologies, protocols and layers

• System Security

• System Software

• Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms & programming - written paper (1 hour 30 minutes) 50%

• Algorithms

• Programming techniques

• Producing robust programs

• Computational logic

• Translators and facilities of language

• Data representation

Practical Programming skills from September 2020 will be accessed in paper 2.

This specification is an updated version of the J276 GCSE (9–1) Computer Science specification to meet

Ofqual requirements introduced for first assessment 2022. All exam boards offering GCSE Computer Science

have to assess Practical Programming skills in the external examination from 2022 onwards.