

Computer Science GCSE
Summer 2021

Assessment Papers	Assessment Objectives
Paper 1: 90 minute paper (81 marks)	The Learners will be examined on the following: Systems Architecture (the CPU (purpose, architecture, function, components, FDE, aspects that affect performance and embedded systems). Memory (ROM, RAM, virtual/cloud storage, flash memory) Storage (types of storage, suitability, capacity) Networks (types, performance, the cloud and hardware) System security (attacks, threats and prevention) System software (purpose and function, utility software) Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental (environmental, privacy, ethical, legal, cultural, open source/proprietary) Computational logic (binary, hexadecimal, logic diagrams, truth tables, boolean operators)
Paper 2: 90 minute paper (79 marks)	The learners will be examined on the following: Algorithms (computational thinking, searching, sorting, pseudocode, flow diagrams, interpreting/completing/correcting algorithms) Programming techniques (variables, data types, operators) Robust programs (testing, types of error) Computational logic (logic diagrams, boolean operators, computing mathematics) Translators (levels of language, characteristics) Data representation (images, compression)
<p>The list of topics should be taken in the form they are presented in the syllabus as an indicator rather than an exhaustive list of the topics that will and will not be assessed in the examinations. The Internal Assessment Papers will only cover aspects of the course that have been studied up to 1st April 2021.</p> <p>The breadth of the paper generally reflects the weighting of the Units in the official EdExcel syllabus and the proportion of marks awarded to different Assessment Objectives (AO) across the GCSE.</p> <p>All units have been examined and assessed in some part in the Internal End of Unit exams.. The learners have spent a significant amount of time in coding the solution to a problem and this has provided evidence of programming skills and these will provide evidence towards Paper 2 skills in the final centre assessed grades that will constitute the final grade awarded for GCSE Computer Science.</p>	