



COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Ofsted said: "Pupils study a high-quality and consistently delivered curriculum." May 2026

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of a GCSE 9-1 qualification at the end of Year 11. Computer Science GCSE requires students to complete two written exams at the end of the course.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Component 1: Written Paper

Computer systems

1 hour 30 minutes

50% Weighting

Component 2: Written Paper

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

1 hour 30 minutes

50% weighting

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

National Museum of Computing / Bletchley Park:

Hands-on workshops and seminars that build beyond the curriculum.

Hackathon

For the most able programmers – a whole-day opportunity to simulate the working environment of a programming team.

Should my child study Computer Science?

Computer Science is the study of the foundational principles and practices of computation and computational thinking and their application in the design and development of computer systems.

Learning computational thinking involves learning to program, that is to write computer code, because this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed.

What will my child gain from Computer Science?

Learners apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. They also develop a range of technical skills, as well as the ability to test effectively and to evaluate computing solutions.

Where will Computer Science take my child?

Computer Science GCSE is an ideal foundation for further study in computer science.

Understanding the principles of Computer Science provides learners with the underpinning knowledge required for many other subjects in science and engineering, and the skills learnt can also be used in everyday life.

In order to study Computer Science, it is recommended that your child is a competent mathematician with a grade of 4 or higher.

Further reading/suggested revision materials:

GCSE Computer Science OCR - ISBN: 9781789085563

GCSE Computer Science OCR Workbook

ISBN: 9781789085570

Python: Basics (Level 1)

Python: Next Steps (Level 2);

Python: Building Big Apps (Level 3)

Automate the Boring Stuff with Python

ISBN 1593275994

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