



AS/A Level Computing

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification gives a general grounding in computing, including an understanding of computer systems, the principles of programming, and the solving of problems.



What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- Includes assessment of coursework, the best way to assess the candidate's level of practical skills in computing
- Simple, straightforward assessment, with all examination papers externally assessed and coursework element internally assessed and externally moderated
- Content revised to include greater emphasis on programming and removal of topics entirely ICT based
- A2 exam paper 2 hours in length, with AS 1.5 hours
- This specification is excellent preparation for those students intending to pursue computing studies at degree level, or for anyone considering any kind of career in computing.

AS Level

| Unit title | Description | Mandatory/Optional? |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Computer Fundamentals | Candidates gain an appreciation of computing fundamentals, including hardware, software, the presentation, structure and management of data, how data is transmitted and networked, the life cycle of systems development, the characteristics of information systems, and the implications of computer use. | Mandatory |
| Programming techniques and logical methods | Candidates gain an appreciation of designing solutions to particular problems, how procedural programs are structured, the types of data and data structures, the common facilities of procedural languages, how to write maintainable programs, and how to test and run solutions. | Mandatory |

A2 Level

| Unit title | Description | Mandatory/Optional? |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Advanced Computing Theory | Candidates understand the function of operating systems, the function and purpose of translators, how computer architectures are structured, how data is represented, how data is structured and manipulated, high level language programming paradigms, low level languages and how databases function. | Mandatory |
| Computing Project | Through coursework candidates gain an understanding of definition, investigation and analysis, system design, software development and testing, documentation, evaluation and how to produce written reports covering these topics. | Mandatory |

How is this qualification assessed?

Computer Fundamentals, Programming techniques and logical methods and Advanced Computing Theory are all externally assessed through timetabled written examination.

The Computing Project is internally assessed and externally moderated coursework.

Examinations of all modules take place every January and June.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009.

A2

First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of events run annually to support new teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

OCR endorses textbooks published by Hodder for AS Computing and the areas of A2 specialised computing topics.

Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Lesson plans for both AS and A2 are available.
- Specimen Assessment Materials are available for all units.
- Schemes of Work are available for both AS and A2 level.