
Information and Communication Technology

Course Introduction

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work and this new Computer Science course has been developed to equip students for life in the real world. This A level qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the development of ICT systems through practical experience in using a range of applications software in a structured way. Today's students are living in a world where the use of ICT surrounds them, and where they, and others, frequently take this use for granted. It is increasingly important for future adults to be aware of the numerous issues arising from the use of ICT for individuals, society and organisations.

Students will also have the opportunity to complete a substantial project involving the production of an ICT-related system over an extended period of time. In so doing, students will enhance their transferable practical skills.

Assessment

AS Level

Unit 1 – INFO1

Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes examination -80 marks

Section A: short answer questions

Section B: structured questions

Unit 2 – INFO2

Living in the Digital World

50% of AS, 25% of A Level

1 hour 30 minutes examination -80 marks

Section A: short answer questions

Section B: structured questions

A Level

Unit 3 – INFO3

The Use of ICT in the Digital World

30% of A Level

2 hour examination -100 marks

Section A: structured questions based on pre-release material

Section B: questions requiring extended answers

Unit 4 – INFO4

Coursework: Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in the Digital World -20% of A Level
Coursework project report, marked by centre and moderated by AQA

70 marks - Students complete a project involving the production of an ICT-related system over an extended period of time.

Minimum Entry Requirement

B grade in Computer Science or B Grade in CIDA

Information and Communication Technology

AS Level

Subject content areas

Unit 1 – INFO1

- Health and safety in relation to the use of ICT systems
- Analysis
- Design of solutions
- Selection and use of input devices and input media
- Selection and use of storage requirements, media and devices
- Selection of output methods, media and devices
- Selection and use of appropriate software
- Implementation of ICT-related solutions
- Testing of ICT-related solutions
- Evaluation of ICT-related solutions

Unit 2 – INFO2

- An ICT system and its components
- Data and information
- People and ICT systems
- Transfer of data in ICT systems
- Safety and security of data in ICT systems
- Backup and recovery
- What ICT can provide
- Factors affecting the use of ICT
- The consequences of the use of ICT

A level

Unit 3 – INFO3

- Future developments
- Information and systems
- Managing ICT
- ICT strategy
- ICT policies
- Legislation and regulations
- Developing ICT solutions
- Development methods
- Techniques and tools for systems development
- Introducing large ICT systems into organisations
- Training and supporting users
- External and internal resources

Unit 4 – INFO4

The Project should include:

- Background and investigation
- Analysis and deliverables
- Design and planning for implementation
- Testing and documentation of the implementation
- Evaluation of the implemented solution
- The Project Report