

A Level

Specification Number: 7517D

Qualification Number: 601/4569/9

AQA A-LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 5 A*-C grades / grade 5 (new grading structure) at GCSE or equivalent with English and maths.

Course Description

Are you ready to shape the future rather than just live in it? The AQA A-level Computer Science (7517) is more than just a qualification—it's a gateway to innovation, creativity, and high-demand careers. Whether you're passionate about technology, problem-solving, or simply curious about how the digital world works, this course offers the perfect blend of challenge and opportunity.

In today's digital age, computer science is everywhere—from the apps on your phone to the algorithms that power social media, healthcare, and even space exploration. Studying A-Level Computer Science gives students the tools to understand, design, and build the systems that run our world.

This subject isn't just for future programmers. It's for thinkers, creators, and innovators. It develops logical reasoning, analytical thinking, and resilience—skills that are highly valued across all industries. And the highlight? The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)—a practical project where students design, code, and evaluate their own software solution. It's a chance to showcase creativity and technical skill in a real-world context.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A Levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning to A Level Mathematics and A Level Business Studies.

Assessment

External Assessment	80%
Mandatory Content	100%
External Assessment Administration	2 x Exams: 2 x 2hrs 30mins
Internal Assessments	Non-exam Assessment
Internal Assessment Length	Learners will be allocated approximately 50 hours.
Total Assessments Taken	3 units

Mandatory units. Learners must complete all units.

1	Paper 1 (Programming, Data Structures, Algorithms, Computation)	40% of A-Level	Examination
2	Paper 2 (Data Representation, Computer Systems, Computer Architecture, Uses of Computing, Networking, Databases, Big Data)	40% of A-Level	Examination
3	Non-exam Assessment (Practical Programming Project)	20% of A-Level	Internal Assessment

Career Opportunities

Software Developer
Researcher
Cybersecurity Analyst

Data Science
Network Engineer
Digital Marketer

IT Support Specialist
Web Developer
Game Developer

Exam Board Website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science/a-level/computer-science-7517/specification>

Course Details

For more information, please see Mr. Ryder (01922) 721071 ext. 2225

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