

GCSE Computer Science

This course follows the traditional GCSE format and was introduced by WJEC to raise and encourage computational skills in pupils. Computing is tailored to anyone who is thinking about working directly with computers and application development.

The course is a mixture of coursework and a final exam comprised of three units, spread over two years.

Unit 1 – Understanding Computer Science (Exam: 45%)

This will develop the pupils' knowledge about how a computer system functions in terms of hardware and software and how computer systems relate to the modern world.

Unit 2 - Solving Problems Using Computers (Computerised Exam: 30%)

This assessment consists of a series of tasks set and marked by WJEC and completed on screen by the candidate. Some of the tasks will require work to be completed using Greenfoot, a package which is freely available for legal download (<http://www.greenfoot.org/door>)

Unit 3 - Developing Computing Solutions (Coursework: 25%)

Controlled assessment over approximately 15 hours. The pupils will use the Visual Basic programming language.

The course is graded A* - G

It is recommended that pupils who take this course are in the top two sets of maths due to the heavily logical content involved.

For more detailed information, go to www.wjec.co.uk/computerscience

At the present time this is a linear course but this could change to be modular depending on the Welsh Government decision on GCSE's.