

GCSE & GCE Computer Science

Welcome back

Welcome to the new academic year. We hope you had a relaxing summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

This newsletter contains important information and updates for teachers delivering **WJEC Computer Science qualifications**. Throughout the year, we will continue to support you through our digital resources, professional learning programme, examiner reports, and qualification-specific guidance materials.

Celebrating the First GCSE Computer Science Unit 1 Examination

The Summer 2026 series marked an exciting milestone as the first live sitting of the new GCSE Computer Science Unit 1 qualification. We would like to thank all centres, teachers and learners for their commitment and support in making this inaugural series such a success. With nearly 1,400 candidates entered, the examination provided a valuable opportunity to see how learners engaged with the new specification.

There is much to celebrate. Learners demonstrated strong understanding across many of the core topics, particularly those relating to computer systems, networking, operating systems and good programming practice. Questions focusing on CPU components, programming best practice and operating system functions were among the strongest performing on the paper, showing that students have developed secure foundational knowledge.

The results also highlighted encouraging levels of confidence in cyber security and networking concepts, with many candidates successfully applying their knowledge to real-world contexts. Logical thinking and digital systems were also areas of strength for a large proportion of learners.

As expected in a first examination series, some areas proved more challenging. Candidates generally found it easier to recall knowledge than to provide detailed explanations. Questions requiring learners to explain how technologies work, compare different approaches, or justify their answers often produced less developed responses.

The assessment also highlighted opportunities for further development in algorithm design and programming concepts. Longer questions that required candidates to combine several ideas in a structured response were often more demanding, suggesting that learners would benefit from additional opportunities to practise applying their knowledge in unfamiliar situations.

Overall, the first sitting has provided a highly positive start for the qualification. Students demonstrated strong knowledge across much of the specification, and the outcomes have given valuable insight into where teaching and learning can be strengthened further. We look forward to continuing to work with centres as the qualification develops and to celebrating the achievements of future cohorts.

Assessment Feedback and Support

We encourage centres to make full use of the support materials available on the qualification webpages. These include examiner reports, sample assessment materials, teaching and learning resources, and guidance documents designed to support effective delivery and preparation for assessment.

Following the Summer 2026 examination series, examiner reports will provide valuable insights into candidate performance, common misconceptions, and examples of good practice. Teachers are strongly encouraged to review these reports alongside the published assessment materials to identify areas for development and inform future teaching and learning.

Remember that Unit 2 Computer programming will be first assessed in in the summer of 2027.

Key Dates

Below are some key dates for your diaries:

- **NEA Submission of samples deadline:**
 - **GCSE:** 5th May 2027
 - **GCE:** 15th May 2027
 - **Note:** the NEA submission deadline is the final date in which all work must be uploaded. **Marks for candidates** should be entered at least 3 weeks prior to this date.

Examination Dates GCSE

Unit	Code	Date	AM/PM
Unit 1 Computer Science	3500U10-1	11 th January 2027	AM (resit only)
Unit 2 Computer Science	3500U20-1	14 th January 2027	AM (resit only)
Unit 1 Computer science	3460U10-1	10 th May 2027	AM
Unit 2 Computer Science	3460U20-1	19 th May 2027	PM

Examination Dates GCE

Unit		Date	AM/PM
Computer Science Unit 1	2500U10-1	Tuesday 11 th May	PM
Computer Science Unit 3	1500U30-1	Wednesday 7 th June	PM
Computer Science Unit 4	1500U40-1	Tuesday 15 th June	AM

Examiner Reports

Principal Examiner Reports for GCSE and A Level Computer Science will be available on the qualification webpages following the Summer 2026 series. These reports contain valuable feedback on candidate performance, strengths demonstrated by learners and areas where centres may wish to focus future teaching.

Qualification Resources

A wide range of free teaching and learning resources continues to be available through the WJEC Digital Resources website. Resources include:

- Teaching guidance and support materials
- Sample assessment materials
- Knowledge organisers
- Revision resources
- Examiner commentary and assessment guidance
- Professional learning materials

We recommend checking the qualification webpages regularly as additional resources may be published throughout the academic year. [Resources](#) Our Digital Resources website continues to grow with new materials being added throughout the academic year.

Centre Communications

Please ensure that examination officers and subject leaders regularly monitor communications from WJEC and access the Portal for the latest qualification updates, administrative guidance and assessment information.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Our Assessment Feedback Package continues to support teachers by providing access to assessment expertise, examiner feedback and professional learning opportunities.

Further events will be published throughout the year via the qualification webpage and WJEC Professional Learning pages.

Professional Learning 2026/27: Book your place today!

Designed to support teachers at every stage of qualification delivery, our programme offers a wide range of opportunities to develop subject knowledge, strengthen assessment understanding and share best practice with colleagues and our subject experts.

For further information view [here](#)

Declaration Sheets

JCQ members have agreed new wording for candidate and assessor declarations which are to be implemented by all exam boards. As such all candidate and assessor declarations have been updated to reflect the new wording. All centres are required to use the new declaration sheets, please download the new versions from the subject pages: [GCSE](#) | [A-Level](#)

Become an Examiner or Moderator

By joining the WJEC examining team you can:

- Enhance your subject knowledge
- Gain valuable professional development
- Build professional networks
- Receive expert training and support
- Develop a deeper understanding of assessment requirements

Applications are welcome from experienced Computer Science teachers who would like to contribute to the successful delivery of the qualification. [Link](#)

Get in touch

If you have any questions about a Computer Science qualification, available resources, or professional learning opportunities, we would be happy to help. Please get in touch.

cs@wjec.co.uk.

Regards,

WJEC Computer Science Team