

Department / Syllabus Link: Business – GCSE Computer Science (Edexcel).

	GCSE Unit Title	Knowledge & Skills Developed	Assessment	Personal Development
Autumn 1	6.1 Introduction to Python and programming.	Knowledge/Skills:	Student self-assessment against stored answers and solutions.	Students will gain the opportunity to develop
		 Introduction to Python language. 		their logic thinking and
		 Practising the 'print' command. 	Physical storage vs virtual storage	problem solving skills
		 Accessing online Python editors. 	article. Teacher assessed.	and apply them to any
		• Decomposition of programs into input, process	Revision starters for 10.	problem scenario that could have a
		and output.	Revision starters for 10.	programmable solution.
		• Program sequencing suing the print command.	Social inclusion App design	programmable solution.
		Knowladza (Skiller	(Algorithm to provide a safe and	
	6.2.1 Python IDLE and	Knowledge/Skills:	straight forward passage to and	
	programming	Understand the interactive mode of Python	through each groups platform).	
		(IDLE).	Teacher assessed.	
		• Use of keyboard programing shortcuts	Problem solving task (Army	
			recruitment algorithm). Validity of	
		Knowledge/Skills:	the solution will be peer assessed.	
	1.2.1 (1.1.2) Problem solving: ways of describing problems		End of tonic tosts	
	(algorithms, written	• Explain what is meant by decomposition of a problem.	End of topic tests.	
	description, flowchart,		Binary cup – Student competition.	
	pseudo-code).	• Explain what an algorithm is and that algorithms		
		can be represented as written descriptions, as pseudo-code, as a flowchart and as program code.		
		 Emphasise the different ways of representing the 		
		same problem as an algorithmic design.		
	1.5.1 Operators: arithmetic	Knowledge/Skills:		
	operators, order of	Duthon arithmatic operators		
	precedence and parenthesis.	 Python arithmetic operators. Explain the use of parentheses and the order of		
		precedence.		

6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.5	• Explain how to interpret common error messages.	Students will be able to
Developing code	 Debugging programs is a normal part of 	develop their own coding
	programming.	identity that supports
	Demonstrate how to include comment statements	industry requirement.
	using the # symbol and explain that comments are	
	used to make the code readable.	
	• Explain how programs can be stored in a file using	
	the file/new window command.	
6.3.1, 6.3.4, 6.1.2, 6.4.1	Knowledge/Skills:	
Data types, variables, input		
and output	• Explain and describe the four data types: integer,	
	real, Boolean and char.	
	 Explain that a variable is a named space in a 	
	computer's memory where one can store things	
	and that can change (vary) the things that are	
	stored in that memory.	
	• Assigning values to variables and the conventions	
	for selecting variable names.	
	• Explain the use of the input function to assign	
	input values to a variable.	
	• Explain the use of the int function to convert a string to an integer and why it is used with the	
	input function when entering numbers.	
	 Explain that string method .format gives control 	
	over the formatting of output compared to using	
	space-separated values in print.	
	• Demonstrate numbers in the {} brackets are	
	replaced by the objects given in the .format	
	method.	
	• Create a Python program that asks the user to	
	enter three numbers, adds up the numbers and	
	displays the answer on the screen. Link to the	
	input-process-output model.	

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	 Explain that a computer's electronic circuits consist of hundreds of thousands of tiny switches, called transistors. Explain that a single binary digit is known as a bit and can have one of two values (0 or 1). Explaining that it can represent two options, e.g. true/false, yes/no, black/white. Adding up in binary and understanding the problem of overflow errors. Arithmetic and logical shifts. Understand how bits in a computer are able to represent a wider range of values, e.g. with 3 bits a computer can represent eight different states. Define bit terminology: A group of four bits is known as a nibble and a group of 8 bits is known as a byte. 		
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Autumn 2	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.5.3 Flowcharts	Knowledge/Skills:	Student self-assessment against
	and Boolean operators	Kilowieuge/skilis.	stored answers and solutions.
		• Identify flowshorts and the flowshort such at	
		 Identify flowcharts and the flowchart symbols. Demonstrate how flowshorts can represent if 	Revision starters for 10.
		Demonstrate how flowcharts can represent if (decision) problems	
		(decision) problems.	End of topic tests.
		• Explain the concept of AND, OR and NOT (Boolean operators) to combine the results of two condition	
		statements.	Binary cup – Student competition.
		Repetition construct: while loops.	
		A Repetition construct. While loops.	Draw IO and Flowol software tasks –
			Peer assessed.
			Microbit exercises – Peer assessed.
	1.5.3, 1.3.1 Boolean	Knowledge/Skills:	
	operators, logic, and truth		
	tables	 Create and write programs that use AND, OR, 	
		NOT conditions.	
		• Complete the truth tables for AND, OR and NOT.	
		 Use IDLE's colour coding to ensure syntax is 	
		correct.	
	2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.4 Binary:		
	representation of signed and	Knowledge/Skills:	
	unsigned integers		
		• Learning how binary can represent other types of	
		numbers, i.e. negative numbers.	
		• Explain and identify sign and magnitude (where	
		the most significant bit indicates whether the number is negative [0] or positive [1]).	
		 Explain and identify two's complement (where the 	
		most significant bit is a negative number).	
		most significant sit is a negative number).	
	2.1.1, 2.1.5 Hexadecimal:	Knowledge/Skills:	
	what is it and why is it used?		
	Converting hex-binary-hex	• Explain that early programmers had to program in	
		just 0s and 1s. Discuss the problems with that	
		(errors, time to code, etc.).	

	• Convert hex-binary-hex.	
1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1 Pseudo-code	Knowledge/Skills:	Students will be able to break down a problem
	 Understand that pseudo-code means 'mock' or 'pretend' code and that it is way of describing/writing a program. Explain the reasons why flowcharts and pseudo- code are used to write algorithms. Learn the list of the pseudo-code commands explicit with Edexcel. Demonstrate how to translate programs written in pseudo-code into Python code. 	using decomposition and abstraction methods to create programmable solutions to problems.
1.3.3 Data types: string manipulation and string	Knowledge/Skills:	
methods	 Explain that a string is a data structure that stores a set of characters. Explain how the position of each character in a 	
	 string is called the index. Demonstrate how to slice strings using square 	
	 brackets. Demonstrate how the len() function can be used to find the length of a string. 	
	 Demonstrate how to write programs that manipulate strings. Explain that strings are immutable, i.e. items in a string list cannot be changed. 	
3.5.1 High and low level	Knowledge/Skills:	
programming languages	 Learn about how Programming languages run on computers by being translated into 0s and 1s. Explain the early computers, e.g. Colossus, 	
	Manchester Baby, ENIAC. Explain how they were programmed in machine code.	

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 Practise the concept of repetition as a programming construct by giving the example of iterating through a list and also through a range of values. Explain how a for loop repeats (or iterates) over the items in a list or a string. Describe the syntax of
iterating through a list and also through a range of values.Explain how a for loop repeats (or iterates) over
values. • Explain how a for loop repeats (or iterates) over
Explain how a for loop repeats (or iterates) over
the items in a list or a string. Describe the syntax of
the for loop.
• Explain the significance of the indent, i.e. that the
loop ends when the block of code is no longer
indented.
 Demonstrate how the built in range() function
allow a range of values to be generated.
3.2.1 Hardware: the function
of internal components Knowledge/Skills:
 Explain the hardware components in a desktop
computer (Computer architecture).
Explain that computers are made up of millions of
electronic components, changing state hundreds
of millions of times a second.
Identify the processor (CPU), RAM memory,
secondary storage (hard disk drive), CD and DVD
drives, graphics cards and network card.
 Explain that the CPU is connected to the other
components by wiring known as buses. There are
three types of buses: Data, Control and Address.
3.4.1 Operating systems: files, Knowledge/Skills:
hardware and the user
interface. • Define and list different operating systems in
different computing devices.
 Diagram to show how the operating system
 Diagram to show now the operating system
provides an interface between the computer's

	6.6.1 Subprograms: random function	 Explain the main functions in an operating system: File management, Hardware management (Input/output and resource management), User management and process management. Explain what is meant by a process. Explain that a computer program is a collection of instructions. Explain that all application software such as a web browser, word processor, spreadsheet or apps are just computer programs and run as processes on a computer. Knowledge/Skills: Explain how Python uses modules that contain pre-written functions. Demonstrate how to import and run modules. Explain how random numbers are used in many programs especially for writing games. Demonstrate the use of the randint() function to generate random numbers. 		
Spring 1	4.1.1 Networks 4.1.2, 4.1.7 LANs and WANs, Network Topologies	 Knowledge/Skills: Understand what a computer network is and why computers are networked. Explain what a computer network can do. Identify the following features: The ability to exchange/share files and data; share physical resources, such as printers; communication (email, social media, video-conferencing); streaming content (videos, TV, music); storing data (cloud computing); accessing the internet; joining online communities. Knowledge/Skills: 	Networking leaflet. Teacher assessed. Revision starters for 10. End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition.	Student will be able to design a network to share peripherals and improve efficiencies.

	• Explain that computer networks are categorised	
	according to their geographic coverage.	
	• Explain the advantages and disadvantages of Local	
	area networks (LAN) and Wide area networks	
	(WAN).	
	 Client-server and Peer-to-Peer networks 	
	(explaining the client and server process).	
	• Explain how different network media effect data	
	transmission speed (copper and fibre optic	
	cabling).	
	 Calculate Wi-Fi and signal range. 	
	• Explain how the term topology refers to the way in	
	which devices are connected on a network.	
	 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of 	
	different topologies (Bus, Star, Ring and Mesh).	
	Knowledge/Skills:	
4.1.3, 4.1.4, Network Data	Knowiedge/Skiis.	
Speeds, Wired and Wireless	• Explain how network connection speed is	
Connectivity, Network	measured by how many bits can be transferred in	
Topologies	one second (bits per second (bps)).	
	 Identify the different units of measurement in file 	
	size calculations.	
	 Calculate the time required to transmit a file. 	
6.3.2 Data types and	Knowledge/Skills:	
structures: two dimensional		
arrays (lists) and nested 'for'	• Explain how information can be stored in two-	
loops	dimensional (2D) lists.	
	• Explain that these data structures are called arrays	
	in some programming languages.	
	• Explain that nested loops can be used to process	
	the information within	
	two-dimensional lists (arrays).	
	 Demonstrate how to create and initialise a two- 	
	dimensional list (array) in Python.	

	Demonstrate how information can be stored in	
	two-dimensional lists (arrays) and how it can be accessed.	
	• Explain that lists need to be created before they can be used.	
6.4.2 Validation	Knowledge/Skills:	
	• Explain that validation is the automatic checking of entered data.	
	 Demonstrate why validation is required when 	
	entering 'Y' or 'N' into a program and what happens when some other character is entered.	
	 Demonstrate the 'try' command to defend a 	
	program from suspicious code that could cause a	
	particular type of error.	
6.2.1, 6.6.1, 6.6.2, 6.6.3	Knowledge/Skills:	
Subprograms: Procedures,	• Explain that as programs get more complex it is	
functions, return, passing parameters	useful to divide (decompose) them into smaller	
	parts.Explain the 4 parts of a function:	
	1. A name that identifies the function	
	2. Parameters that allow data to be passed into	
	a function as arguments	
	 A body of commands Return values to the calling program 	

	 6.3.4 Local and global variables 6.3.5 Constants 4.1.5 Protocols 	 Knowledge/Skills: Demonstrate how variable assignments are available in parts of a program when using multiple functions and describe the concept of 'scope' of a variable. Explain that global variables can be used anywhere in a program whereas local variables are defined for use only in a function. Explain that local variables come into existence when a function is entered and the data they contain is lost when the execution of the function is completed. Knowledge/Skills: Explain that a constant is a variable with a fixed value that cannot be changed. Knowledge/Skills: Understand the different protocols for different areas of networking. Explain the following protocols: Ethernet, Wi-Fi, 		
		TCP/IP, HTTP, HTTPS, FTP, POP3, SMTP and IMAP.		
Spring 2	5.1.1, 5.1.2 Environmental impact of technology on society, Understanding the ethical impact of using technology (privacy, inclusion, professionalism) on society	 Knowledge/Skills: Summarise the main ways in which computers are having a positive impact on people's health. Summarise the ways in which computer manufacture, use and disposal harm the environment. Understanding privacy settings, legislation and professionalism in computing. 	News article on hazardous substances – Teacher assessed. Revision starters for 10. End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition. Social inclusion app design – peer assessed.	Students will be able to make conscious decisions about the impact of computing devices on the environment. They will gain an ethical awareness of the impact that technology has on an individual and how ethical awareness is

	• Explaining social inclusion (technology	changing technology
	empowered, technology excluded and the digital divide).	companies.
	 How cookie tracking captures data and 	
	preferences.	
1.2.3 Boolean Logic	Knowledge/Skills:	
	• Explain that logic gates can be linked to each other	
	to create complex circuits.	
	• Explain how a Boolean value is either True or False	
	and this can be represented using 0 (Zero) for false and 1 for true (relate to binary). In electronics this	
	equates to part of a digital circuit having power or	
	not.	
	 Recognise the symbols and how the logic gates work. 	
4.1.6 Layered protocol stacks (TCP/IP) and packets	Knowledge/Skills:	
	Explain TCP/IP (Transmission Control	
	Protocol/Internet Protocol) is a protocol stack or	
	protocol suite.Explain that a protocol stack is a layered collection	
	of protocols. Each layer has a specific purpose.	
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6.1.3, 6.1.7, 6.1.6, 6.1.5 Errors and debugging tools in an	Knowledge/Skills:	
Integrated Development Environment	• Explain that a trace table helps to test for logical	
Environment	errors in a program.	
	Complete a trace table by listing the values	
	assigned to a variable during the running of a specific program.	
	 How a debugger can be used. 	

		 Explain the concept of sequential records stored in a file and how you need to open a file for reading (r) or writing (w). Demonstrate how a program can read records from a file and write records to a file. Demonstrate how to append records to the end of any existing file. 	
Summer 1	2.2.2 Data representation: Images and sound	Knowledge/Skills: Explain that the size of an image file is determined	Colour depth questions – Teacher assessed.
		by number of pixels per inch (resolution) and the number of bits per pixel (colour depth).	Revision starters for 10.
		• Explain that all colours are combinations of red, green and blue.	End of topic tests.
		• Explain that any colour can be encoded as a set of three numbers. 'True colour' allocates 1 byte for	Binary cup – Student competition.
		red, 1 byte for green and 1 byte for blue (24-bit colour depth).	'Name that tune' using audacity software - Peer assessed.
		• Understanding the different image compression techniques and the advantages and disadvantages of each method.	Year 10 mock exam – Teacher assessed.
		• Explain that sound is analogue and that a process of digitisation is needed to convert it to a series of binary numbers.	How fast is your brain exercise – student self-assess.
		• Explain the sampling rate which is the number of samples taken per second and is measured in hertz (Hz).	
		Explain bit depth in sound.Explain that sample rate and bit depth determine	
		the quality of the reproduction and the comparable file sizes.	
	6.3.2 Dictionaries	Knowledge/Skills:	
		 Explore how a dictionary allows you to look up a word and find its definition. In Python, the 	

	dictionary is an 'unordered set of key: value pairs,		
	with the requirement that the keys are unique.		
2 2 1 2 2 2 Hardwara	with the requirement that the keys are unique.		
3.2.1, 3.2.3 Hardware:			
internal components	Knowledge/Skills:		
	• Explain that processors are made of transistors. A		
	transistor is an on/off switch controlled by an		
	electric signal.		
	 Explain that the clock speed of a CPU is how fast 		
	the transistors are switched. The faster the clock		
	speed, the faster the computer can perform		
	calculations.		
	• Explain that it is the processor clock that sends out		
	a pulse at regular intervals. The clock speed is		
	measured in frequency (cycles per second) using		
	the unit hertz.		
	• Explain the energy output from transistors as heat.		
	• Compare the increase in transistors as computing		
	technology advances.		
	• Explain that 'volatile' memory only retains data		
	while it is receiving electrical power while 'non-		
	volatile' memory retains data even in the absence		
	of a power source.		
	• Demonstrate how main memory (also known as		
	Random Access Memory (RAM)) is volatile and is		
	used to store instructions and data while programs		
	and applications are running.		
	• Explain that the size of the address bus determines		
	the maximum number of unique memory		
	addresses that can be used.		
	• Explain to students that the computer may not		
	contain the maximum amount of addressable		
	memory.		
	 Review the stages involved in a memory read and 		
	memory write.		
	 Explain what ROM (Read Only Memory) is and how 		
	it differs from RAM.	L	

Summer 2	3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 Hardware : internal components	Knowledge/Skills:	Revision starters for 10.	This is an opportunity for students to practise
		• Explain that the CPU comprises three main components: the control unit, the Arithmetic and Logic Unit (ALU) and the registers.	End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition.	coding in preparation for the Practical exam (Practical task).
	6.4.3 Reading and writing CSV files	Knowledge/Skills:	Network security leaflet – Teacher assessed.	
		 Creating a CSV file in a spreadsheet containing a data set. 		
		 Calculate the mean of the scores in the CSV file. Find the maximum score in the CSV file 		
		Find the minimum score in the CSV file.Explain how python can write a list of lists as a CSV		
		file.Append code, test it and examine the CSV file saved by the program.		
	3.2.1 Network security	Knowledge/Skills:		
		 Explain how networks can be protected? E.G. Passwords, password complexity, firewalls. What is the role of a firewall. 		Students will develop an awareness of how to protect computer
		 Identify and explain network threats: Cyberattacks, social engineering, phishing and shoulder surfing. 		systems and improve their own security measures.
		• Explain how physical devices may pose a threat: USB devices, digital devices and eavesdropping.		
		 Identify software and explain how it can protect a network from cyberattacks, e.g. Design and code reviews. 		
		 Methods to secure operating systems. Creating audit trails and identifying vulnerabilities. 		

	, 5.2.2, 5.2.3 Ethical and	Knowledge/Skills:	Revision starters for 10.	Students will be able to
legal		 Explain the influence of copyright, licensing and intellectual property Explain open source and proprietary software and the advantages and disadvantages of both. 	End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition. Legislation leaflet – Teacher assessed. Review of big corporation case studies – student assessed.	Students will be able to use information in accordance with the appropriate legislation.



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	GCSE Unit Title	Knowledge & Skills Developed	Assessment	Personal Development
Autumn 1	2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4 Compression: lossless run- length encoding	 Knowledge/Skills: Explain how lossless and lossy compression affects image quality and file size. Practice encoding or decompressing colour images using RLE (Run Length Encoding). Explain the advantages and disadvantages of applying RLE. 	Student self-assessment against stored answers and solutions. Practise Practical Assessment – Teacher assessed	Students will be able to apply compression techniques in order to make decisions about the appropriate use of a file and the appropriate file size according to the need.
	Practical Assessment Preparation: Requirements	 Knowledge/Skills: Analysing a problem, applying abstraction and decomposition methods. Designing an algorithm to model a problem scenario and provide a possible solution. Creating the initial test plan. 		
Autumn 2	Practical Assessment Requirements 3.1.2 Data storage: magnetic	 Programming a solution using Python software. Developing a coded solution using Python software. Applying debugging tools and techniques. Testing, refining and evaluating a coded solution. Knowledge/Skills: Explain that there are three main ways in which data is stored permanently on devices (magnetic, optical and solid state). Explain how Cloud storage provides a storage facility via the Internet. 	Practise Practical Assessment – Teacher assessed Student self-assessment against stored answers and solutions. Revision starters for 10. End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition.	Students will have coded a real life problem, which will provide them with a set of skills that can be applied in further education or in a commercial environment.

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	• List online storage facilities, e.g. The one drive and	Driverless car and the embedded	
	Google drive.	systems involved – student	
		assessed.	
	Knowledge/Skills:	Packet switching exercise – Peer	
3.1.3 Embedded systems		assessed.	
	 Explain how embedded systems work in 		
	everyday devices.		
	• List the devices where embedded systems are		
	common.		
	Knowledge/Skills:		
4.3.1, 4.3.2 The internet,			
Addressing, routing, Physical	• Explain that the word 'internet' is short for		
routing and DNS, the World	'interconnection of computer networks' i.e. a		
Wide Web	network of networks. Networks across the globe		
	are connected.		
	• The role of an ISP.		
	• Demonstrate how to find the IP address of a		
	computer.		
	• What the difference between IP4 and IP6 is.		
	• Describe the role of a router as a device that		
	connects sub-networks together using the IP		
	address.		
	Describe the sub-net mask (links back to Boolean		
	logic 2.5 and hexadecimal notation 3.1.5).		
	• Demonstrate how to use a visual trace route tool.		
	 Explain packet switching and routers. 		
	• Explain that the role of the DNS (Domain Name		
	Server): to match up a user-friendly domain names		
	like to an IP address.		
	• Explain that when a user requests a named service		
	a message is sent to DNS to look-up the IP address		
	of that service so that the user can then send a		
	message to the right IP address.		
	• Explain that the World Wide Web (WWW) refers		
	to the huge collection of documents, written in		

Spring 1	6.5.1 Characteristics of structured and unstructured data, Structured databases Tables and relationships	 HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) that can be accessed using the internet. What HTML documents are (text files stored on a server which are sent to your computer when you access them using web browser software). Explain the role of a web browser. Explain that a website is addressed using a URL (Uniform Resource Locator). Explain that HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) defines how files on the World Wide Web are transmitted and displayed in web browsers and that HTTPS is an encrypted version of HTTP which allows data to be scrambled as it is transmitted over the internet. Knowledge/Skills: Explain that a structured database is a convenient and powerful way to store and organise data. Explain that a relational database helps to solve this and other problems by splitting the data into several linked or related tables. Demonstrate why each record needs a unique identifier. Understanding of relational database terms. Demonstrate how keys are used to create a relationship between tables. 	Mock exam – Paper 2 – Teacher assessed Student self-assessment against stored answers and solutions. Revision starters for 10. End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition. Primary School database task – Peer assessed.	Students will be able to design and create a database which will provide them with a set of skills that can be applied in further education or in a commercial environment.
Spring 2	5.4.2 Encryption, Caesar cipher algorithm	 Knowledge/Skills: Outline the encryption process – a key is used to encrypt plain text into meaningless cipher text, the same key is used to decrypt the data back into its original form. 	Mock exam – Paper 2 – Peer assessed Student self-assessment against stored answers and solutions.	

		 Practise encrypting and decrypting using a Caesar cipher wheel to demonstrate a positive and negative shift. 	End of topic tests. Binary cup – Student competition.	
	Exam skills/end	 Knowledge/Skills: Revision of topics and final examination skill practice. 	Short and extended exam questions with a combination of self- assessment and teacher assessment.	
Summer 1	Exam skills/end	Knowledge/Skills: Revision of topics and final examination skill	Short and extended exam questions with a combination of self- assessment and teacher assessment.	
Summer 2	** Computer Science	practice. Exams are set early in the exam calendar, both exam papers	will have been delivered by the end of the 1st Summer Term. **	*