

# Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

## What can I gain from this qualification?

GCSE Computer Science will offer you lots of transferable skills which are known to be vital in further education and the world of work, including:

- Problem solving
- Analytics
- Researching skills
- Data analysis skills
- Organisation

“Onscreen programming assessment seems like a really obvious thing to do. Given that computers are where you learn and practice coding.”

**Harry Wake, aged 15.**

## Future careers

There are endless opportunities available through studying Computer Science. The world is becoming increasingly digital. As technology constantly advances, new roles are created, and in this exciting and ever-shifting landscape, so many new opportunities are open to students.

### Here are just a few careers you could embark on

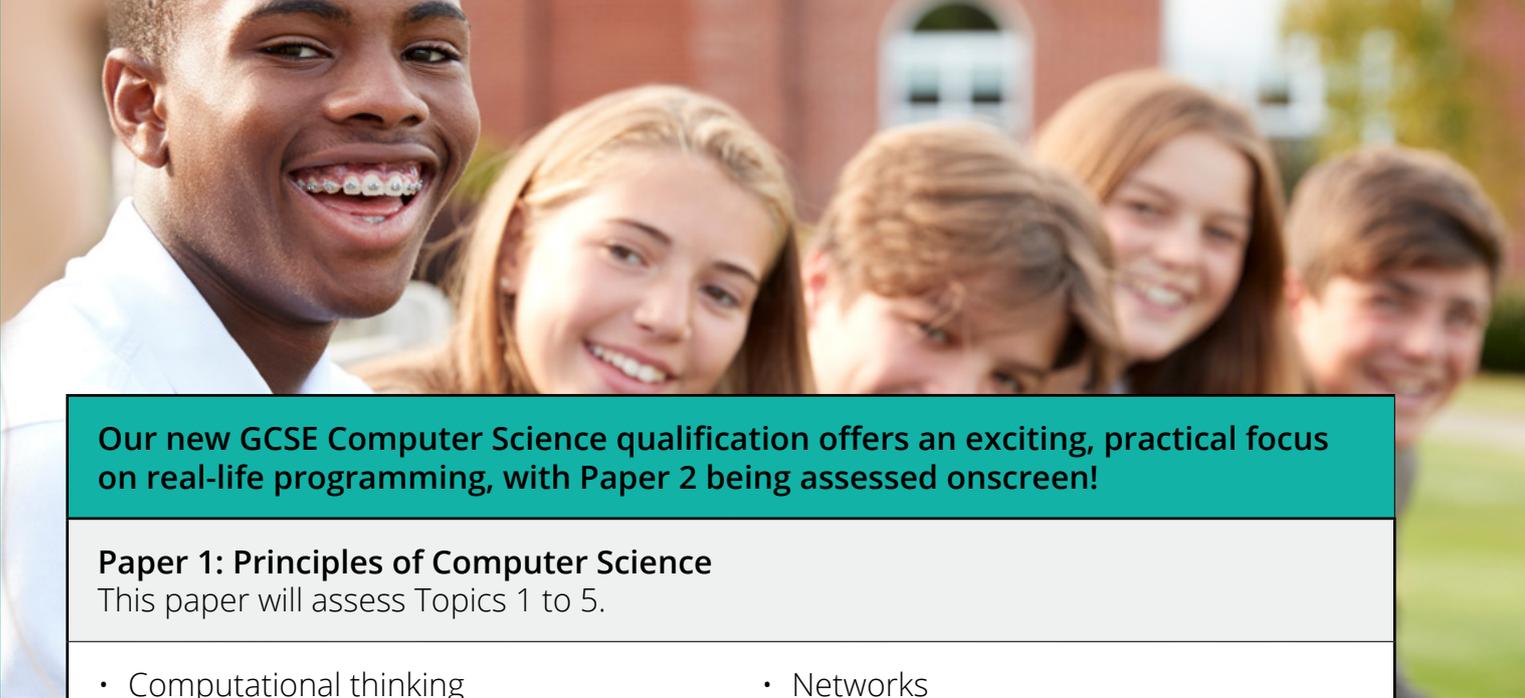
- Web designer
- Videographer/film maker
- Animator
- Graphic designer
- Games designer

“I am impressed by Pearson’s on-screen assessment for Paper 2. The overall approach which seems to have really looked at this from a student’s perspective with the no surprises guarantee, minimal keywords and the PLS available in the assessment.”

**Michael Naylor, National Lead Practitioner  
at Oasis Community Learning Trust.**



Scan the QR code to  
find out more about  
this qualification



**Our new GCSE Computer Science qualification offers an exciting, practical focus on real-life programming, with Paper 2 being assessed onscreen!**

### **Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science**

This paper will assess Topics 1 to 5.

- Computational thinking
- Data
- Computers
- Networks
- Issues and impact

### **Assessment overview**

This paper consists of five compulsory questions, each one focused on one of the topic areas. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short-, medium- and extended-open-response, tabular and diagrammatic items.

### **Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking**

This paper will assess Topic 6: Problem solving with programming.

#### **The main focus of this paper is:**

- understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs
- understanding how to decompose and analyse problems
- ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

### **Assessment overview**

This paper is practical in nature and requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems.

Students will complete this assessment onscreen using their Integrated Development Environment (IDE) of choice.

#### **They will be provided with:**

- coding files
- a hard copy of the question paper
- Programming Language Subset (PLS) - as an insert in the question paper and an electronic version.

Students should then answer the six compulsory questions onscreen using Python 3.