



Parents Guide to Preparing for Computer Science Examinations 2026



Computer Science is assessed by two written papers. Paper 1: Computer Systems, will take place on Thursday 13th May 2026 in the afternoon and will last 1 hour 30 minutes. Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming will take place on Tuesday 19th May 2026 in the afternoon and will last for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

In order for parents to support their child effectively at home with planning and revision we would like to give you the following information. The exam board is OCR, the course code is J277.

The Topics assessed on J277 Paper 1: Computer Systems.

- **1.1 Systems architecture: CPU architecture, Factors affecting the performance of the CPU, Embedded systems.**
- **1.2 Memory and storage: Primary storage, Secondary storage, Data storage, Numbers, Characters, Sound and Images, Compression**
- **1.3 Computer networks: Wired and wireless connections & protocols**
- **1.4 Network security: Network threats, Identify and preventing vulnerabilities.**
- **1.5 Systems software: Operating systems, Utility software**
- **1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology**

The Topics assessed on J277 Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- **2.1 Algorithms: Computational thinking, Designing algorithms, Searching and sorting algorithms**
- **2.2 Programming fundamentals: Data types, Strings, Arrays and Sub-programs, SQL**
- **2.3 Producing robust programs: Defensive design, Testing**
- **2.4 Boolean logic: Different types of logic gates**
- **2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environment: IDE's**

Practical Revision Tips

In preparation for these exams, students should aim to revise little and often. The key areas to focus on include learning to answer high mark questions, knowing features of a topic, advantages and disadvantages, using examples and concluding the question giving their own opinion or justification. Practising past exam paper questions in order to build confidence with command words such as “describe”, “explain” and “evaluate”. Looking at past exam paper mark schemes to check the correct content for possible answers. It is particularly important for students to practise their Python skills for answering programming questions in paper 2. We also would encourage students to create mind-maps, revision cards and revision notes. Students can also attend Intervention every Wednesday lunchtime in W21,

Available Resources

At St Anthony's, the Computer Science Department has a wide range of resources to support revision. These can be found on the TEAMS site and the students shared drive, which is accessed by their email account. Other resources are listed below to aid student revision

Recommended revision sites/resources:

Craig n dave videos on you-tube

Shared folder for Year 11 Unit 1 Practice Exam questions, Unit 2 Practise Exam Questions

Powerpoints on TEAMS – all lesson theory power-points - to make notes, mindmaps

Previous exam paper walkthroughs – links in the shared folder

W3schools.com – select Python tab for examples of code – Allows you to practise writing programs.

