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Cambridge International

AS and A Level

Computing

Coursebook

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Contents

Introduction v
Acknowledgements vi

1 Computer systems, communications and software 1

1.1 Components of a computer system and modes of use 2
1.2 System software 4
1.3 Data: Its representation, structure and management 15
1.4 Hardware 30
1.5 Data transmission and networking 44
1.6 Systems development life cycle 54
1.7 Choosing appropriate applications software 66
1.8 Handling of data in information systems 76
1.9 Designing the user interface 87
1.10 Logic gates 91

Module 1 Exam questions 98

2 Practical programming techniques 107

2.1 Designing solutions to problems 108
2.2 The structure of procedural programs 122
2.3 Data types and data structures 142
2.4 Common facilities of procedural languages 155
2.5 Writing maintainable programs 163
2.6 Testing and running a solution 171

Module 2 Exam questions 177
Contents

3 Systems software mechanisms, machine architecture, database theory, programming paradigms and integrated information systems 181

3.1 The functions of operating systems 182
3.2 The functions and purposes of translators 195
3.3 Computer architectures and the fetch–execute cycle 206
3.4 Data representation, data structures and data manipulation 212
3.5 Programming paradigms 233
3.6 Databases 262
3.7 Simulation and real-time processing 274
3.8 Networking 281
Module 3 Exam questions 292

4 Computing project 299

General description of the computing project 300
4.1 Quality of report 304
4.2 Definition, investigation and analysis 305
4.3 Design 310
4.4 Software development, programming, testing and installation 315
4.5 Documentation 319
4.6 Evaluation 322

Revision guidelines 324
Answers to Test yourself questions 329
Answers to Exam questions 360
Glossary 415
Index 430
Introduction

This full-colour, highly-illustrated textbook has been written by experienced authors specifically for the University of Cambridge International Examinations AS and A Level Computing syllabus (9691). The four modules of the book follow the four sections of the syllabus, and there are syllabus codes <insert fig 1 here> throughout to provide an easy reference to the syllabus. This enables students and teachers alike to make sure they are on track to cover the complete course.

The narrative provides clear explanations that are supported by diagrams, screenshots and photographs, bringing the topics to life. At the end of each chapter, there are self-assessment questions with answers at the back of the book. These relate to the material covered in the chapter, and offer an opportunity to revise concepts just learned, or to test understanding. Whilst these are not examination questions, each comes with a mark allocation to get the students into the practice of always thinking carefully about each point they make. The questions often include useful ‘Hints’ from the authors, particularly with respect to mark allocations. The answers also include ‘Comments’ from the authors in places where there are common pitfalls or typical errors.

Throughout each chapter there are ‘Activity’ and ‘Discussion’ boxes (see images below). These are questions or points for individual or class discussion. These allow students to explore the topics in more detail and really test their understanding.

Discussion

At the end of each Module, there are examination questions from real past papers. These will cover content from all the chapters in the Module in a random order. Each has the real mark allocations indicated and gives the students targeted exam practice for the given topics of that unit. The answers to these questions are provided at the back of the book, complete with ‘Comments’ from the authors in places where, in their experience, students have struggled in the examinations. There is also a chapter at the end of the book devoted to exam preparation that offers student general advice for coping with the examinations.

However, learning is about more than passing an examination; it is about increasing knowledge. Therefore, there are numerous places where the book goes beyond the scope of the syllabus. This ‘Extension’ material (indicated by the boxes shown below) is there for those that want to carry out independent study or further research into the given topic. Please note that this material is not in the syllabus and therefore will not be in the examination.

Extension

Finally, there is the glossary of key terms. Here, you should find an easily accessible means to remind yourselves of the important terms you have learned as you progress through the course. We hope you enjoy the textbook and the course.

The author team.
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