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Chris Leadbetter Roger Blackford and Tony Piper
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Chris Leadbetter, Roger Blackford and Tony Piper

Cambridge International AS and A Level Computing Coursebook

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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.

Activity

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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