EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

COMPUTER SCIENCE (ITC315118)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external written exams. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The criteria to be externally assessed are: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The format of the external assessment is: a 3-hour written examination.

The examination paper will be written so that students who have studied only Java applets (rather than Java applications) will not be disadvantaged.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criteria and Elements</td>
<td>1 Problem solving and programming - algorithm design and problem solving</td>
<td>2 Problem solving and programming - programming language</td>
<td>3 Problem solving and programming - use of objects</td>
<td>4 Computer fundamentals and computer limitations - computer architecture</td>
<td>5 Computer fundamentals and computer limitations - data representation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Coverage</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of items</td>
<td>Three (3) questions</td>
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<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>All three (3) questions are compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item type(s) format</td>
<td>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</td>
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<td>fine – describe response type only</td>
<td>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</td>
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<td>Suggested time allocation</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
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<td>35 minutes</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rating allocation (either Rating or Mark Allocation – weighting must be specified)</td>
<td>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B-, ... C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z. Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</td>
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ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.
WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A
☐ assesses examinable aspects of Criterion 1
☐ provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
☐ three questions correspond to C, B and A ratings
☐ all questions are compulsory

SECTION B
☐ assesses examinable aspects of Criterion 2
☐ provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
☐ three questions correspond to C, B and A ratings
☐ all questions are compulsory

SECTION C
☐ assesses examinable aspects of Criterion 3
☐ provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
☐ three questions correspond to C, B and A ratings
☐ all questions are compulsory

SECTION D
☐ assesses examinable aspects of Criterion 4
☐ provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
☐ three questions correspond to C, B and A ratings
☐ all questions are compulsory

SECTION E
☐ assesses examinable aspects of Criterion 5
☐ provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
☐ three questions correspond to C, B and A ratings
☐ all questions are compulsory