EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

COMPUTER SCIENCE (ITC315118)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. 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 external assessment consists of a 3 hour written examination.

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

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

Criterion 1: design, extend and improve algorithmic solutions to a range of problems
Criterion 2: create programs in a high level programming language
Criterion 3: use appropriate objects in the design of programs
Criterion 4: describe and apply knowledge of computer architecture
Criterion 5: analyse how data are represented and stored
WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The following specifications for each section are outlined in Table below:

- the distribution across the sections of:
  - criteria
  - time allocations
- the number and type of items.

<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</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Coverage</td>
<td>Problem solving and programming -</td>
<td>Problem solving and programming -</td>
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<td>Computer fundamentals and</td>
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<td>algorithm design and programming</td>
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<td>computer limitations -</td>
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<td>solving</td>
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<td>solving</td>
<td>data representation</td>
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<td>Number of items</td>
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<td>Section</td>
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<td>Suggested time allocation</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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</table>

**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