

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.

Section	A	B	C	D	E
Criteria and Elements	1	2	3	4	5
Course Coverage	Problem solving and programming - algorithm design and problem solving	Problem solving and programming – programming language	Problem solving and programming - use of objects	Computer fundamentals and computer limitations- computer architecture	Computer fundamentals and computer limitations – data representation
Number of items	Three (3) questions	Three (3) questions	Three (3) questions	Three (3) questions	Three (3) questions
Compulsory	All three (3) questions are compulsory	All three (3) questions are compulsory	All three (3) questions are compulsory	All three (3) questions are compulsory	All three (3) questions are compulsory
Item type(s) format fine – describe response type only	<p>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</p> <p>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</p>	<p>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</p> <p>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</p>	<p>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</p> <p>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</p>	<p>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</p> <p>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</p>	<p>Questions may require written and diagrammatic responses</p> <p>Questions will be structured in increasing difficulty to allow candidates to demonstrate understanding at the C, B and A standards.</p>

Section	A	B	C	D	E
Suggested time allocation	35 minutes	35 minutes	35 minutes	35 minutes	35 minutes
Rating allocation (either Rating or Mark Allocation – weighting must be specified)	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p>	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p>

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