Consultation Response Document

Future assessment arrangements for GCSE computer science

## Respond

Please respond to this consultation using one of the following methods;

* complete the online response available on [this webpage](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-assessment-arrangements-for-gcse-computer-science).
* email your response to [consultations@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ofqual.gov.uk) - please include the consultation title in the subject line of the email and make clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding

For information on how we will use and manage your data, please see annex A.

# Questions

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that assessment by examination is the best approach for assessing all of the content in GCSE computer science?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is a range of ways by which programming could be assessed within our definition of an exam?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer, with reference to the options we have set out where appropriate.

1. If you do not support our proposed approach, how would you prefer programming skills to be assessed in GCSE computer science?
2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the original assessment objective weightings should be reinstated?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

1. In our proposals we discuss the continued use of a statement signed by the head of centre confirming that students have been given the opportunity to design, write, test and refine programs, using one or more high-level programming language with a textual program definition as part of their course of study in preparation for the examinations. If programming skills are assessed in the exams, should such a statement be required?

Yes/No

Please explain your answer.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the interim arrangements should remain in place for students who will take their exams in summer 2021, with the new assessment arrangements being used for the first time in summer 2022?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

1. We believe that our proposals will reduce the burden upon teachers, who will be able to decide how they develop their students’ programming skills and how to timetable this in the course. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

1. We do not believe there would be a negative impact from our proposals on any students because of their protected characteristics, beyond those already identified for whom reasonable adjustments can be made. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

1. If you are responding on behalf of an exam board, please provide us with an indication of any additional costs you estimate you will incur if we implement our proposals as set out in this consultation.

In your response please distinguish between one-off and recurring costs.

1. We have a duty under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act to have regard to the desirability of facilitating innovation in connection with the provision of regulated qualifications. We have committed in our Corporate Plan to survey awarding organisations’ views of the impact of our regulatory requirements on innovation and consider any revisions required in response.

***We consider that our proposals are sufficiently flexible to allow exam boards to take innovative approaches to assessment in GCSE Computer Science, and do not believe that these proposals would unduly prevent innovation.***

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement?

Strongly agree/ agree /neither agree nor disagree/ disagree/strongly disagree

Please provide specific examples to illustrate your answer.

1. Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to our rules for GCSE computer science presented in Annex A?

Yes/No

Please enter any comments below.

# Annex A

# Your data

## The identity of the data controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

This Privacy Notice is provided by The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). We are a 'controller' for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Data Protection Act 2018 ('Data Protection Laws'). We ask that you read this Privacy Notice carefully as it contains important information about our processing of consultation responses and your rights.

## How to contact us

If you have any questions about this Privacy Notice, how we handle your personal data, or want to exercise any of your rights, please contact:

Data Protection Officer at dprequests@ofqual.gov.uk or write to us at: Data Protection Officer, Ofqual, Earlsdon Park, 53-55 Butts Road, Coventry, CV1 3BH.

As part of this consultation process you are not required to provide your name or any personal information that will identify you however we are aware that some respondents may be happy to be contacted by Ofqual in relation to their response. If you or your organisation are happy to be contacted with regard to this consultation, please give your consent by providing your name and contact details in your response.

## Our legal basis for processing your personal data

For this consultation, we are relying upon your consent for processing personal data. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us using the details above.

## How we will use your response

We will use your response to help us shape our policies and regulatory activity. If you provide your personal details, we may contact you in relation to your response.

## Sharing your response

We may share your response, in full, with The Department for Education (DfE) and The Institute for Apprenticeships (IFA) where the consultation is part of work involving those organisations. We may need to share responses with them to ensure that our approach aligns with the wider process. If we share a response, we will not include any personal data (if you have provided any). Where we have received a response to the consultation from an organisation, we will provide the DfE and IFA with the name of the organisation that has provided the response, although we will consider requests for confidentiality.

Following the end of the consultation, we will publish a summary of responses and may publish copies of responses on our website, www.gov.uk/ofqual. We will not include personal details.

We will also publish an annex to the consultation summary listing all organisations that responded. We will not include personal names or other contact details.

Please note that information in response to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with access to information law, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have obligations to disclose information to particular recipients or including member of the public in certain circumstances. Your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance requests for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Members of the public are entitled to ask for information we hold under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. On such occasions, we will usually anonymise responses, or ask for consent from those who have responded, but please be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

If you choose ‘No’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won’t make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

## How long will we keep your personal data

For this consultation, Ofqual will keep your personal data (if provided) for a period of 2 years after the close of the consultation.

### Your data

Your personal data:

• will not be sent outside of the European Economic Area

• will not be used for any automated decision making

• will be kept secure

We implement appropriate technical and organisational measures in order to protect your personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction, accidental loss or alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access and any other unlawful forms of processing.

Your rights, e.g. access, rectification, erasure

As a data subject, you have the legal right to:

• access personal data relating to you

• have all or some of your data deleted or corrected

• prevent your personal data being processed in some circumstances

• ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record

If you would like to exercise your rights, please contact us using the details set out above.

We will respond to any rights that you exercise within a month of receiving your request, unless the request is particularly complex, in which case we will respond within 3 months.

Please note that exceptions apply to some of these rights which we will apply in accordance with the law.

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at ico.org.uk, or telephone 0303 123 1113. ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If there is any part of your response that you wish to remain confidential, please indicate so in your response.

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