



Computer Science

For Leaving Certificate

While the Junior Cycle Coding Short Course provides a foundation for Computer Science, it is not essential and it is possible to take up Computer Science at senior cycle.

Computer Science is the study of computing and algorithmic processes. Leaving Certificate Computer Science includes how programming and computational thinking can be applied to the solution of problems, and how computing technology impacts the world around us..

The Leaving Certificate Computer Science specification is designed for all students. It applies to many aspects of students' lives and is therefore relevant to a wide range of student interests. It is divided into three strands:

1. Practices and principles - the behaviours and ways of thinking that computer scientists use.
2. Core concepts - the major areas in the field of computer science: abstraction, data, computer systems, algorithms and evaluation/testing.
3. Computer science in practice - students work in teams to carry out applied learning tasks over the duration of the course, each of which results in the creation of a real or virtual computational artefact.

Learners that complete the Computer Science curriculum tend to be resourceful, confident, engaged and active learners.

Topics Covered

Computational thinking, Computers and society, Turing machines, Designing and developing, Abstraction, Algorithms, Computer Systems, Data, Testing & Evaluation.

<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/d73af6e3-b4e5-4edb-a514-6383e2306a4b/16626-NCCA-Specification-for-Leaving-Certificate-CS-WEB-v4.pdf>

Students who have studied Computer Science have gone on to do...

Computer Science, IT & IT Systems, Information Science, Computer Animation, Software Engineering, Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity.

A great choice if you:

- want to develop it as a career choice, e.g. web development, gaming development, computer support technicians, software development, computer programming, database administration
- want to teach Computer Science/Coding
- Cyber Security analyst, forensic computer analyst

Computer Science will enhance personal skills such as:

- Logical thinking
- Organisation
- Critical thinking
- Presentation
- Error finding
- Reasoning
- Decision making
- Problem Solving

Assessment:

70% exam – In May
30% continual assessment

Levels:

2 levels, Higher & Ordinary.

