

Rationale for A Level Computer Science Teacher Assessments 2021

This year students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught and based on the standard at which they are performing.

Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of this plan. Teachers have been asked to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests.

The Process for awarding a Teacher Assessment Grade (TAG) for A Level Computer Science at KNGS:

- At KNGS, A Level CS is taught by 1 experienced CS teacher (who is the subject leader).
- This teacher has taught GCSE and A Level CS for many years, both the new and old specifications.
- This teacher has led the South Area Network working group for Computer Science and also moderated work with the Oaks Collegiate of schools for a number of years.
- A Level CS has 2 written theory papers and 1 Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) element (programming project).
- Throughout the course, the CS department keeps records of data in order to calculate performance.
- Specification weighting of different components are considered when calculating performance.

TAG Grades 2021

The range of evidence used ensures that all Assessment Objectives are covered. Furthermore, all syllabus components will be considered when calculating the TAG. The weighting will be as follows:

Component	Expected Evidence	Type of Assessment	Expected Weighting to that component	Overall weighting to final TAG
Paper 1	Dec 2019 Formal Assessment	Unseen	30%	50%
	Jan 2020 In Class assessment	Unseen	10%	
	5 x SLR (Homework assessment) average grades (Completed already)	Open Book	5%	
	June 2020 Paper 1 Mock (remote)	Unseen	5%	
	April 2021 Structured Assessments	Unseen	50%	
Paper 2	Oct 2020 Paper 2 Mock (in class)	Unseen	15%	40%
	5 x SLR (Homework Assessment) average grades (Completed already)	Open Book	5%	
	March 2021 In Class Work – Exam Style Questions – to support April assessment	Unseen	30%	
	April 2021 Structured Assessments	Unseen	50%	
NEA	NEA Project Document Work completed is marked – if students have not completed all work – then average grade will be awarded based on quality of work seen.	NEA – relaxed restrictions	100%	10%

Assessment of Component 2:

- Component 2 has been taught almost entirely through lockdown and there has been no mock data for this component due to students only having a component 1 exam in Dec 2019. Because of this, there is a greater need to gather evidence for the component through the April 2021 assessments. However due to the nature of how it was taught – it would be fairer to weight the components in favour of Component 1 which was largely taught as “normal”

Assessment of NEA:

- We recognise that completion of the programming project will have been impacted by the lockdown and disruption caused by the pandemic.
- The project requires real end users and regular communication with stakeholders.
- The project requires specialist software and powerful computers which many students would struggle to run, or their own devices would run considerably slower.
- The NEA weighting has therefore been reduced to 10% from its original 20% to ensure students have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability, but also to ensure that the assessments in Component 1 and 2 have a much fairer outcome and indicator for student performance.
- When the NEA is marked, it will be moderated from a random sample with another school. The NEA will be graded based on the sections completed e.g., if the evaluation section is not completed then students would not need to finish it – the grade would be made up of grade boundaries excluding those sections. This is to ensure that students aren't penalised if they weren't able to complete a section of the NEA for whatever reason.
- Internal quality assurance processes will take place to ensure that judgements are standardised by 2 experienced teachers.
- Any access arrangements and individual needs will be considered.
- Exam board support materials and guidance will be used to make grade judgements.