Computing Science Study Guide

Course Units:

The units you will be studying are:

- **Software Design and Development**
- **Computer Systems**

And one from the following two:

- **Web Design and Development**

OR

- **Database Design and Development**

You should be aware of which units you are studying.

Study Tips:

Answer practice exam questions/past papers and self mark! Try them again a few days later to reinforce your knowledge.

Use retrieval practice to test your knowledge. Create your own mind-maps for different units, quizzes, flashcards, multiple choice questions, or anything else that allows you to test what you have learned.

Problem solving questions require you to apply knowledge to an unfamiliar scenario. These questions make up the majority of the marks in an exam. They require practice. Work through as many exam questions as you can by designing and implementing programs and websites. These questions tend to involve coding, pseudocode, wireframes, and navigation structures.

Types of questions and how to answer them:

When answering an '**identify'**, '**name'**, '**give'** or '**state'** question, only a short answer is expected

When answering a '**describe'** or '**explain'** question, you must:
give a fuller answer than would be expected for a 'name' or 'state' question
refer to the context given in the question instead of providing a generic response
use the marks available as a guide to how many points you should make in your answer

When answering a '**write code**' question, your solution should be in recognisable code. Marks are awarded based on how you solve the problem, not the accuracy of the syntax of your code

When answering a '**design**' question:
In software design and development, you can use **any** recognised design technique **(Pseudocode, Structure Diagram)**
Marks are awarded for how you solve the problem, **not for how you have used the technique**.
In database design and development, and web design and development, you will be asked to **draw** and complete designs using a **specified technique**. Marks are awarded for your understanding of the concepts, **not for how you show these**.