



Managing non-examination assessment for GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (first teaching September 2016)

A message issued on behalf of all four awarding organisations with accredited GCSE (9-1) qualifications in England (AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC Eduqas)

This document provides information about GCSE (9-1) Computer Science Monitoring Visits to centres

An earlier communication (available on awarding bodies' websites at the following links: [AQA](#); [OCR](#); [Pearson](#); [WJEC Eduqas](#)) set out the key control processes that have been agreed with Ofqual, and which will be implemented by all four awarding organisations.

An important part of the processes to address Ofqual's concerns about the robustness of NEA in GCSE (9-1) Computer Science is the Centre Monitoring Visit. Each year, following the publication of results, awarding organisations will identify centres which are to receive a compulsory Monitoring Visit, to inspect the delivery of NEA in GCSE (9-1) Computer Science. The criteria used to identify centres are outlined below under 'Arranging the visit'.

Who will carry out the visit?

Centre visits will be carried out by JCQ Computer Science Monitors. All Computer Science Monitors will be experienced Computer Scientists who will follow a JCQ process specifically created for GCSE (9-1) Computer Science.

Arranging the visit

Centre Monitoring Visits will take place between September and March each year. Centres will be visited if in the previous examination series:

- They had a statistically unusual distribution of written paper and NEA marks.
- They are suspected of malpractice in GCSE Computer Science (9-1) NEA (or GCSE Computing).
- They have been found guilty of malpractice in GCSE Computer Science (9-1) NEA.

Additionally, a small percentage of new and small centres will be visited.

A Computer Science Monitor will contact the centre to arrange a convenient time to visit and meet with the Head of Department for Computer Science (or the teacher(s) delivering GCSE (9-1) Computer Science), the network administrator and the exams officer. The Centre Monitoring Visit must take place within 10 working days of the initial contact.

During the visit

A Centre Monitoring Visit will last around half a day. During the visit, the Computer Science Monitor will check that the centre is compliant with JCQ and awarding organisation instructions and guidance for GCSE (9-1) Computer Science by:

- Reviewing NEA preparation, process and assessment
- Inspecting a sample of learners' NEA work (where available).

Centres should be prepared to demonstrate their systems to the Computer Science Monitor and show resources available to learners. The Monitor will not comment on the production of the current NEA solution.

After the visit

The Computer Science Monitor will not provide a written report to the centre. The appropriate awarding organisation will follow-up with the centre any significant issues identified during the visit.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this document please contact your chosen awarding organisation for clarification.

AQA: www.aqa.org.uk

OCR: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

Pearson: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

WJEC Eduqas: www.eduqas.co.uk