

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Computing Science National 5

COMPUTING  
SCIENCE  
TECHNOLOGIES

NATIONAL  
5

2  
UNITS

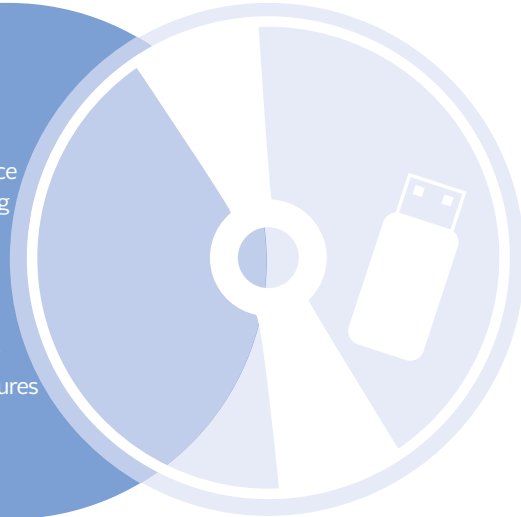
SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

COURSE ASSESSMENT: ASSIGNMENT AND QUESTION PAPER

## What skills will my child develop?

- understanding of the technologies that underpin the digital world
- essential skills for everyday life
- understanding and applying computational processes and thinking
- knowledge and understanding of key facts and ideas in computing science
- analysing, designing, modelling, implementing, testing and evaluating digital solutions (including computer programs) to problems
- reading and interpreting code
- computational thinking
- programming skills and software and information system design
- communicating computing concepts and computational behaviour
- planning, researching, organising and problem-solving with complex features
- understanding the impact of computing science on our society
- understanding the legal and environmental implications of IT
- understanding information representation and transfer



## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, reflecting on learning, setting targets, evaluating progress, making independent decisions
- A blend of classroom approaches including problem-solving in teams with specific roles, sharing learning through group and class discussion
- Collaborative learning: the subject brings aspects of technology, science and creative digital media together, providing the opportunity for cross curricular learning and team-work
- Space for personalisation and choice: learning activities can link to learners' own interests
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; number processes; information handling.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 5, learners must pass all Units and the Course Assessment (Assignment and Question Paper)
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Unit assessment (or 'evidence of learning') could be written evidence, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work
- The Course Assessment consists of an Assignment (learners will analyse and solve a computing science problem and gather evidence) and a Question Paper (exam). Both are marked by the SQA and are graded A to D.

National 5 progresses onto Computing Science Higher

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Computing Science National 5: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56923.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/56923.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)