



OAKS PARK SIXTH FORM
Learning Together, Achieving Together



COMPUTING APPLICATIONS TRANSITION BOOKLET 2026 - 2027

Full Name:

Key Areas Of Focus	
Introduction To The Advanced Alternative Qualification In Computing Applications	Welcome to the OCR Level 3 AAQ in Computing Applications! This course bridges the gap between theory and the high-demand digital skills needed in today's economy. Unlike traditional routes, you will focus on the application of computing - solving real-world problems using advanced software, data analytics, and digital tools. Whether you aim for university or a career in tech, this qualification provides the professional edge to lead digital transformation in an increasingly dynamic world.
Skills Gained	By the end of this course, you will evolve from a technology user into a creator and manager of digital solutions. You will be prepared for roles like Data Analyst, IT Project Manager, or UX Designer, gaining essential proficiency in software development, systems application, and data management. These skills will empower you to design intuitive interfaces and manage complex IT infrastructures, providing a solid foundation for both higher education and the modern technology industry.
Wider Reading	The Design of Everyday Things by Don Norman Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think by Viktor Mayer-Schönberger The Phoenix Project by Gene Kim Algorithms to Live By by Brian Christian and Tom Griffiths

Why Transition Work?

Success in an AAQ requires a shift from recall to applied knowledge. The Transition Work Booklet helps you bridge the gap between GCSE and Level 3, fostering the independent inquiry skills needed for Sixth Form. Because the volume and depth of technical projects are significantly higher than at Key Stage 4, these tasks prepare you to research emerging technologies and document processes without direct guidance, building the "portfolio mindset" necessary for this course.

Fundamentally, A Levels also require you to be an independent learner, someone capable of studying and cementing knowledge in their own time, without direct or explicit guidance. Although you will have fewer subjects, they require an entirely different skill set in terms of studying, and the volume of work produced in each subject is exponentially larger due to the depth and detail of an A Level, to produce a well rounded subject expert.

The exercises and tasks in this booklet will ensure that you are ready to begin the exciting course that is the AAQ in Computing Applications. Starting in September, the knowledge you gain from these tasks will be put to immediate use. Each task has also been designed in such a way that you begin to hone your skills in the ways that you need for Sixth Form; independent enquiry, evidence of further reading, and evidence of further learning.

Will My Work Be Assessed?

Yes. In September, you will be asked to submit your completed transition work on the Google Classroom for the subject. Over the first two weeks of Year 12, you will sit a Baseline Assessment, covering all the topics assigned in the transition work, as well as be expected to deliver presentations on the tasks that ask you to do so.

Your transition work must be completed, and ready to submit, on the first Year 12 Computing Applications Lesson in September. In certain cases, we may decide to withdraw the offer of studying the AAQ in Computing Applications.

Extra Reading & Resources

TheDrum: <https://www.thedrum.com/>

StudioBinder: <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/>

CSNewbs: [OCR A-Level | CSNewbs](#)

Treeknox Logic Puzzles: <https://www.treeknox.com/general/puzzles/logical/index.php>

Section 1 - Information Systems In The Modern World

Task #1: The Data-Driven Society

In this task, you will investigate how organizations use vast amounts of data to make decisions. The AAQ course focuses heavily on how information flows through a business. Choose one of the following sectors:

- Retail: How supermarkets use loyalty cards (like Tesco Clubcard) to predict what you'll buy.
- Streaming Services: How Netflix or Spotify uses data to keep you subscribed.
- Healthcare: How wearable technology (Fitbit/Apple Watch) is used for patient monitoring.

You will be expected to cover:

1. What data is being collected? (Input)
2. How is that data processed into useful information?
3. What are the benefits to the business and the consumer?
4. What are the privacy concerns? (Focus on GDPR and data security).

Mode of assessment:

A 5-minute presentation or a 1-page digital infographic summarizing your findings.

Task #2: IT Systems Terminology

The AAQ course requires you to understand the components of a business IT system. Research and define the following terms. Ensure your definitions focus on business application rather than just technical specs.

Peripheral Device	Cloud Computing	ADSL vs Fibre Optic	LAN vs WAN
VPN	Data Integrity vs Data Security	Primary Key and Foreign Key	Query
RSI and Ergonomics	The Data Protection Act of 2018	Relational Databases	API

Mode of assessment:

A glossary check-list at the start of the term to ensure you have the foundational vocabulary for Unit 1.

Section 2 - Data Management & Digital Skills

Task #1: Database Fundamentals

A major part of the AAQ is learning to manage information using Relational Databases. For this task, you don't need software yet—just your logic. Imagine you are designing a database for a Gym.

1. Entity Relationship: Draw a diagram showing how "Members," "Classes," and "Instructors" are linked.
2. Data Types: For a "Member" table, list 5 fields (e.g., FirstName) and identify their data type (e.g., Text/String, Date/Time, Boolean).

Mode of assessment:

You will be asked to submit your hand-drawn or digital ERD (Entity Relationship Diagram) and Table Structure on Google Classroom within the first two weeks of Year 12.

Task #2: Social Media for Business

In Computing Applications, we look at how businesses use social media for more than just "posting photos." It forms a key part of their identity in modern society.

The Scenario:

A local independent coffee shop wants to increase its footfall by 20% over the summer. Write a Social Media Strategy (max 500 words) that covers:

1. Which two platforms should they use and why? (e.g., Instagram for visuals, X for quick updates).
2. What kind of content will they post?
3. How will they use Data Analytics to see if their plan is working? (e.g., reach, engagement rates, click-throughs).

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