

Computational thinking, problem-solving and programming: Introduction to programming

IB Computer Science



Content developed by **Dartford Grammar School** Computer Science Department





HL Topics 1-7, D1-4





1: System design



2: Computer Organisation



3: Networks



4: Computational thinking



5: Abstract data structures



6: Resource management



7: Control



D: OOP



HL & SL 4.3 Overview

Nature of programming languages

- 4.3.1 State the fundamental operations of a computer
- 4.3.2 Distinguish between fundamental and compound operations of a computer
- 4.3.3 Explain the essential features of a computer language
- 4.3.4 Explain the need for higher level languages
- 4.3.5 Outline the need for a translation process from a higher level language to machine executable code

Use of programming languages

- 4.3.6 Define the terms: variable, constant, operator, object
- 4.3.7 Define the operators =, ., <, <=, >, >=, mod, div
- 4.3.8 Analyse the use of variables, constants and operators in algorithms
- 4.3.9 Construct algorithms using loops, branching
- 4.3.10 Describe the characteristics and applications of a collection
- 4.3.11 Construct algorithms using the access methods of a collection

4.3.12 Discuss the need for sub-programmes and collections within programmed solutions

4.3.13 Construct algorithms using predefined sub-programmes, one-dimensional arrays and/or collections



2: Computer Organisation





3: Networks

4: Computational thinking





5: Abstract data structures

6: Resource management







D: OOP





Topic 4.3.12

Discuss the **need** for **sub-programmes** and **collections** within programmed solutions



Advantages to modular design

 Modular programming is an important and beneficial approach to programming problems. They make program development easier, and they can also help with future development projects.

Key benefits/advantages:

- Usefulness of reusable code
- Eases program organization, both for the individual programmer, team members
- Makes future maintenance easier you only have fix/update a module, not the whole program



Manageable tasks

- Breaking down a programming project into modules makes it more manageable.
- These individual modules are easier to design, implement and test.
- Then you can use these modules to construct the overall program.



Distributed development

- Modular programming allows distributed development.
- By breaking down the problem into multiple tasks, different developers can work in parallel.
- And this will shorten the development time.





Code reusability

- A program module can be reused in programs.
- This is a convenient feature because it reduces redundant code.
- Modules can also be reused in future projects.
- It is much easier to reuse a module than recreate program logic from scratch.



Program readability

- Modular programming leads to more readable programs.
- Modules can be implemented as user-defined functions.
- A program that has plenty of functions is straightforward.
- But a program with no functions can be very long and hard to follow.

