

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Computer Science 9618

About the Preparation Course

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

Your preparation pathway

The Polymath preparation pathway connects subject understanding with the ability to use it in Cambridge assessments. For Computer Science 9618, this means secure coverage of the selected syllabus route and steady development of the response skills described above.

Stage	What it is for	Expected learner outcome
Course Orientation	Explains the subject, syllabus, assessment and resources	Understand the course and the correct qualification route
Diagnostic Assessment	Identifies starting strengths and gaps through the released diagnostic materials	Know which foundations need attention; no official grade prediction
Syllabus teaching modules	Develops the content and skills in the syllabus map	Understand and connect the required subject areas
Topic and skills practice	Provides opportunities to apply learning and use correction guidance	Address weaknesses before relying on timed work
Paper-specific preparation	Explains the formats and demands of required components	Respond appropriately to the actual assessment tasks
Revision and examination preparation	Brings topics and skills together under increasing time constraints	Improve consistency, accuracy and examination readiness
Examination-entry information	Directs learners to an approved centre for applicable arrangements	Understand that registration and entry confirmation are separate from course study

This is the planned learning sequence, not a statement that every stage or service is already available online. Your released course materials identify the items you can currently use. A preparation-course completion record is separate from a Cambridge qualification.

Starting at the right level

Diagnostic guidance helps identify what you already understand and what needs strengthening. This advanced-level qualification is typically studied by learners aged 16 to 19, although it may be taken at any age. Cambridge recommends previous study of Computer Science at a level equivalent to Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level. This background is helpful, but it is recommended preparation rather than a formal entry condition. A diagnostic result should therefore be used to prioritise study, not to label your ability permanently or predict an official Cambridge result.

Learning through the modules

The modules should connect explanations with system diagrams, worked solutions, annotated procedures and relevant programming or software examples. Topic practice, model approaches and correction guidance then help you see how knowledge is used. Paper-specific preparation brings those skills together in the format required by the qualification.

Alternate explanation with application. Keep an organised record of commands, algorithms or procedures and the errors they resolve. Practise the assessed mode, including written reasoning when an examination is paper-based.

Set a manageable study rhythm that allows time for learning, application and revision. Guided learning hours are broad curriculum-planning measures, not a guarantee that every learner will finish in a fixed number of months. Progress depends on your starting point, selected route and the quality of your independent study.

Support and responsibility

The support described here is the structured content, diagnostic guidance, model approaches and examination-preparation material in the course plan. Personal tutoring, individual human marking, live support, automated readiness predictions and examination-registration services are not promised unless separately confirmed in the published course offer.

Keep your notes organised around the syllabus and use corrections to identify recurring gaps. Use the scenario to decide which facts or techniques are relevant. Explain why a design choice meets a requirement. Where a practical component applies, develop fluency in the permitted environment, save work correctly and produce the requested evidence. For written algorithms, use the conventions required by the syllabus. Work that must be authenticated, supervised or completed at a centre remains subject to the formal component rules.

Working towards your strongest possible result

Strong preparation combines complete coverage of your required topics with accurate terminology, relevant application and regular review. Balance effort across the required components, and use the official assessment guidance to understand what a stronger response demonstrates. The course supports improvement; it cannot guarantee a grade.

Next: Continue to **Diagnostic Assessment** for the available starting-point guidance, then follow the syllabus modules for your selected route.