COMPUTER SCIENCE
Stage 2 WACE Examination Design Brief

Stage 2:   Applying knowledge and skills in a structured setting.
Unit weightings: 45%–55% from Unit 2A and 45%–55% from Unit 2B
Content weightings: Components   15–20%
                                     Design, Development and Management   15–20%
                                     Tools   60–70%
These weightings apply to the whole exam rather than individual sections.

Written exam paper sections	Supporting Information
Section One **Multiple choice** **20%** 20 questions Suggested working time: 25 mins	Multiple choice response questions provide candidates with an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and understanding without having to formulate a written answer. Stimulus material will be used and could include diagrams, short excerpts from newspaper/journal articles, algorithm segments and screen captures of databases or programs.
Section Two **Short response/production** **35%** 15–25 questions Suggested working time: 65 mins	These items sample breadth of course content and skills. Stimulus material will be used and could include diagrams, short excerpts from newspaper/journal articles, algorithm segments and screen captures of databases or programs Items may relate to stimulus material or a scenario and will be structured as a range of closed and open questions that increase in complexity.
Section Three **Extended response/production** **45%** 5–15 questions Suggested working time: 90 mins	These items sample depth of course content and skills. Formats may include scaffolded questions with parts that increase in complexity allowing students to demonstrate knowledge and skills relating to scenarios, algorithms, database design, diagrams, tables. Items will relate to stimulus material or a common scenario to provide a more holistic approach.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
The Computer Science WACE examination will have 3 sections.

A combined question/answer booklet will be used.

The Curriculum Council will continue to investigate and trial delivery of a computer-based section to the exam.

EXAMINATION LENGTH
The format of the external examination is a 3 hour written paper with an additional 10 minutes reading time. A computer based external examination format will be piloted and this will mean a reduction in the length of the written paper.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS
The general materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are: pens, pencils, eraser or correction fluid, ruler, highlighter.

The special materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are: non-programmable calculators and a MATHOMAT and/or Mathaid and/or any system flowchart template.