COMPUTER SCIENCE
Stage 3 WACE Examination Design Brief

Stage 3: Applying knowledge and skills at a conceptual level.
Content: 45–55% from Unit 3A and 45–55% from Unit 3B
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.

Sections	Supporting Information
Section One **Short response/production** **40%** 20–35 questions Suggested working time: 70 mins	These items sample breadth of course content and skills. Formats may include short paragraphs, dot points, diagrams, algorithms and tables. 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 questions that increase in complexity.
Section Two **Extended response/production** **60%** 10–25 questions Suggested working time: 110 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, extended algorithms, multiple table database designs, diagrams, tables. Stimulus material or a common scenario may be used to provide a more holistic approach.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
The Computer Science WACE examination will have 2 sections. It will consist of one or more scenarios to provide a more holistic exam format rather than discrete independent questions.

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.