Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Summary report of the 2021 ATAR course examination report:
Computer Science

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2021	420	13
2020	428	10
2019	410	6
2018	469	9

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution–Written

Summary
Attempted by 419 candidates   Mean 60.36%   Max 96.19% Min 0.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Short answer	Mean 58.26%		
Attempted by 419 candidates	Mean 23.30(/40)	Max 38.78	Min 0.00
Section Two: Extended answer	Mean 61.76%		
Attempted by 417 candidates	Mean 37.05(/60)	Max 57.82	Min 0.00

General comments
The number of candidates that sat this paper was similar to 2020. The examination provided a number of challenging questions that enabled a level of differentiation that allowed candidates to demonstrate their application of both knowledge and skills. The mean was similar to last year's examination, which indicated that it was able to assess the candidates' ability at a comparable level. The candidates were able to complete the examination in the allotted time frame.

Overall, the feedback of the examination was that it was very well written and a balanced paper.

Advice for candidates
- Read all questions carefully and ensure that you address the requirements of questions including relating answers to scenarios.
- Be familiar with the verbs used in questions and answer accordingly. Refer to the *Glossary of key words in the formulation of questions* on the course page.
- Ensure that you provide the necessary detail when a question requires you to 'describe', 'justify' or 'explain' as a concept; avoid simply stating or listing.
- Read the case study carefully to ensure that you identify the requirements especially in Section Two.

Advice for teachers
- Ensure that students are familiar with all aspects of the syllabus, including application in foreign scenarios.
- Ensure that students practise written responses based on different verbs.
- Provide students with multiple opportunities to apply the range of skills as required in the syllabus. This includes practise of pseudocode, network diagrams, ER diagrams as well as data flow diagrams (DFDs).
- Ensure that students are provided with marking keys from past examination papers which provide guidance regarding the depth of responses required and how marks are allocated.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer (98 Marks)
Overall, this section was completed reasonably well by candidates. It was designed to test knowledge in various ways including application of the knowledge in unfamiliar scenarios.

Section Two: Extended answer (124 Marks)
The mean score of this section was higher than the 2020 examination paper. In contrast to previous examination papers, the programming question tested a variety of control structures, which overall the candidates completed well.