

Issues affecting non-examination assessment for GCSE (9-1) Computer Science

(first teaching September 2016)

A JCQ statement issued on behalf of all four awarding organisations offering the accredited GCSE (9-1) Computer Science qualifications in England (AQA, OCR, Pearson and Eduqas (WJEC)).

This document reminds centres about the controls that must be adhered to in relation to the integrity and security of non-examination assessment (NEA) tasks and the creation of students' NEA solutions.

NEA tasks: what you need to know

- NEA tasks are confidential assessment materials. They must not be discussed with, or sent to any person not directly connected to the conduct of the NEA.
- NEA tasks must be kept securely in the centre during the NEA window (1 September to 31 March).
- Teachers **must not:**
 - Discuss the NEA task with others outside of their centre/academy
 - Share solutions with others outside of their centre
 - Use others' solutions to help conduct the NEA (this includes commercially available solutions)
- Students **must not:**
 - Discuss/seek help with their solution, other than from their supervisor. This includes posting their solution online
 - Seek solutions from other sources, including purchasing or attempting to purchase commercially available solutions.
- The solution to the NEA task submitted by individual students must be their own work, created in accordance with the controls laid out within the relevant awarding organisation's specification.

NEA: suspected breach of NEA material

Should there be a suspected breach of the NEA materials/controls, an investigation will be raised against the involved parties by the respective awarding organisation. A range of sanctions may be applied to a centre, a teacher or a candidate if found guilty of breaching the relevant NEA conditions listed.

Each awarding organisation treats the confidentiality of the NEA materials extremely seriously and thanks all centres who help to ensure that the materials provided for each examination series are used appropriately. Where a centre, teacher or candidate believes that controls have been breached, they should report suspected malpractice to the relevant awarding organisation, following published JCQ procedures. See the JCQ website for more information at: www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice .

If you have any queries regarding this document, please contact your chosen awarding organisation:

- AQA: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/gcse/computer-science-8520
- OCR: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/
- Pearson: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>
- Eduqas (WJEC): www.eduqas.co.uk