

Digital Technology

GCE Student Guide

What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1 Approaches to System Development	<p>In this unit you will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the system development process with particular focus on the analysis, design and implementation stages;• alternative development approaches, which will be compared;• software projects;• security issues; and• programming concepts.
AS 2 Fundamentals of Digital Technology	<p>In this unit you will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• data representation;• data and information;• computer architecture;• hardware and software components;• processing systems; and• web technology and multimedia.
A2 1 Information Systems	<p>In this unit you will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• networks;• databases;• expert systems;• applications of digital technology;• mobile technologies;• cloud computing; and• individual, social and legal considerations.
A2 2 Application Development	<p>In this unit you will complete a detailed project. The project brief will be provided annually by CCEA. You will identify and research a realistic problem. You will then design a solution, implement and test your solution, and document and evaluate your solution.</p>

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How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1 Approaches to System Development	1 hour 30 minute external examination paper	50% of AS 20% of A level
AS 2 Fundamentals of Digital Technology	1 hour 30 minute external examination paper	50% of AS 20% of A level
A2 1 Information Systems	2 hour 30 minute external examination paper	40% of A level
A2 2 Application Development	Internal assessment of a project	20% of A level

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What can I do with a qualification in Digital Technology?

There is a wide range of digital technology related courses available for further study at university. By completing the full GCE (both the AS and A2 courses) you will receive a good foundation to go on to further study at higher education. If you wish to pursue an IT career this A level in Digital Technology will help you identify particular areas of IT that you would like to pursue at university or as a career.

Digital Technology would be beneficial in a wide range of careers. The IT industry now accounts for a significant proportion of our economic output. It is a sector with salaries higher than the Northern Ireland average and job opportunities are increasing rapidly. The IT industry in Northern Ireland is forecast to grow at 2.4 percent per year from 2006 to 2021, over three times the rate of overall employment growth in Northern Ireland. (www.bringitonni.info/parents--guardians/key-facts/) accessed December 2015.

In fact almost every organisation will use IT to conduct their daily operations. As a result, almost all organisations will value the knowledge, understanding and skills that GCE Digital Technology develops. Skills that you will acquire include research, investigation, analysis, communication, problem-solving, time management and working with others. You will also develop practical skills with regard to programming concepts and databases.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

