

OCR A-Level Computer Science Y12 Course Preparation, 2026

Specification & Textbooks:

- Download & read the specification: [OCR A-Level Computer Science \(H446\)](#)
- Get ahold of a textbook (borrow from the sixth form library):
 - **Hodder: Computer Science for A Level (OCR) - ISBN: 978-1-471-83976-4**
Some homework will be set from this book; it covers all the key points in the specification.
 - **PG Online: OCR AS and A Level Computer Science – ISBN: 978-1-910-52305-6**
Goes into additional detail on a number of topics – good for extra reading.

Theory Preview:

You should do some pre-reading (watching) & note taking. The first topic to preview is:

- **1.1 Processors, IO & Storage Devices**
 - Specification: pg. 6
 - Hodder: pg. 124 – 135
 - Craig 'n' Dave: [SLR 01](#), [SLR 02](#), [SLR 03](#)

Programming Skills:

One of your biggest challenges in year 12 will be learning a new programming language. The key to success will be getting to grips with the new language as soon as possible - the more time you can put into developing these skills over the summer, the quicker you will make progress next year.

C# Development:

Do some pre-reading (watching) & note taking:

- **2.2.1 Programming Techniques (a-d)**
 - Specification: pg. 12
 - Hodder: pg. 37 – 44
 - Craig 'n' Dave: [SLR 23](#)

Then, try some coding:

- 1) Install **Visual Studio IDE** (Community Edition) - <https://www.visualstudio.com>
- 2) Work your way through a **C# Tutorial**:
 - <http://www.mutiwingspan.co.uk/cs.php> or
 - <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/csharp>
- 3) Can you create a simple GUI app, using .NET, to show off your skills?