LESSON 112

Past Papers

320 minutes (8 periods) | Exam Prep | Outcome 1.11 | Outcome 1.6 | Outcome 2.6 | Outcome 2.7 | Outcome 2.13 | Outcome 1.22 | Outcome 2.19

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Explore a collection of past exam papers for Leaving Certificate Computer Science from 2025 to 2022. Download papers for Higher and Ordinary levels in English and Irish versions to practise and understand the exam format and question types.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
1.11	discuss the complex relationship between computing technologies and society including issues of ethics
1.6	explain the operation of a variety of algorithms
2.6	construct algorithms using appropriate sequences, selections/conditionals, loops and operators to solve a range of problems, to fulfil a specific requirement
2.7	implement algorithms using a programming language to solve a range of problems
2.13	describe the rationale for using the binary number system in digital computing and how to convert between binary, hexadecimal and decimal
1.22	read, write, test, and modify computer programs
2.19	test solutions and decisions to determine their short-term and long-term outcomes

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Understand the structure and format of previous exam papers for effective preparation.
- Identify key topics and question types commonly tested in the subject.
- Develop familiarity with both Higher and Ordinary level content and expectations.
- Practise applying knowledge to short, long, and programming-based questions.
- Build confidence in navigating and responding to exam-style assessments.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Click through each download link yourself first and confirm the files open, since dead or filtered links will stall the whole class.
- Decide which papers you are setting today and whether students work at Higher or Ordinary level, so they are not scrolling four years of tables looking for the right one.
- Have somewhere for students to save or print work if you want written attempts back rather than papers just read on screen.

Past Papers

HOW THE LESSON RUNS

- Introduction to Past Papers
- 2025 Past Papers
- 2024 Past Papers
- 2023 Past Papers
- 2022 Past Papers

TEACHING MOVES

- 1. Introduction to Past Papers. Walk students through the structure once: Section A and B is short and long answers, Section C is programming. Point out that EV and IV are the same paper in English and Irish, so they only need one.
- 2. 2025 Past Papers. Set the most recent Section C paper as a timed programming attempt. Give the real time allocation so students feel the pace, not just the content.
- 4. 2023 Past Papers. Have students compare a 2023 Section A and B question with the equivalent 2025 one to spot recurring topics like algorithms and data representation.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Students think a Section C answer that runs is automatically correct, ignoring the marking scheme's requirements for structure, comments or handling edge cases. After they code an answer, hand them the relevant marking scheme and have them mark their own work against it. The gap between working and full marks is the lesson.
- Students treat past papers as reading rather than doing, skimming questions without attempting written or coded answers. Set a fixed number of questions to attempt in writing under time pressure, then collect or review. Reading a paper teaches almost nothing on its own.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Emerging: Start them on Ordinary Level Section A short questions to build confidence before longer answers. Pair them with a student who can talk through how they read and unpack a question stem.
- Developing: Have them attempt a full section untimed first, then repeat a similar one under exam time to feel the difference.
- Proficient: Set a Higher Level Section C programming question and ask them to justify their approach against the marking scheme. Ask them to write their own exam-style question on a topic and a model answer, which sharpens their sense of what examiners want.