Central College Nottingham
HND Computing and Systems Development -- Course Specification

	Basic Course Information	
1.	Awarding Body:	Pearson
2.	School/Campus:	Creative and Enterprise / IT - Beeston
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	HND in Computing and Systems Development – Full Time / Day Release
4.	Normal Duration:	2 Years Full-time / 4 Years Day Release
5.	UCAS Code:	

6. **Overview and general educational aims of the course**

The course aims to help students develop the skills required to work in the IT industry through a range of practical and skills based study methods.

The course also aims to enable students to develop both personally and professionally by providing opportunity to enhance enquiry and investigation skills in solving complex problems both individually and in collaborative environments.

The academic qualities of students can be enhanced through a series of contextual written tasks which relate directly to IT industry situations. These tasks also provide insight into how IT companies work.

For students wishing to progress onto higher levels of study, we aim to develop all of the necessary qualities required and offer direct routes of progression.

7. **Course outcomes**

On successful completion of the HND in Computing, students will have developed the following skills.

Ability to solve complex real-world computing related problems.

Ability to work independently or in team situations to achieve computing goals.

Independence in approaching study and assessing own progress.

Ability to research, investigate and problem solve as required.

Ability to be self-managing and to respond to changing conditions in a computing context.

Intellectual Outcomes

Students will have developed the confidence and judgement to work on their own initiative and make decisions based on their own considered conclusions.

Students will also have the confidence to seek help when it is required based on a knowledgeable assessment of a situation.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to:

Understand the importance of deadlines, schedules and working effectively.

Understand where IT fits within all sectors of the real world.

Know how the IT industry operates in providing solutions to real world problems.

Understand how to analyse a real world problem and develop a working solution.

Skills, qualities and attributes
By the end of the course you should be able to:

Work to deadlines and understand the planning and scheduling of workloads.

Use sound interpersonal skills to communicate ideas and interact with others.

Use written, oral and visual communication skills effectively in all situations.

Work effectively in a team and respect the views of other team members.

Use experience and analysis of information available to arrive at informed judgements of situations.

Plan effectively to achieve goals using knowledge and experience gained through practical problem solving.

8. Teaching and learning methods

The teaching and learning methods are varied to provide an interesting and highly contextual educational experience.

The teaching comprises practical learning tasks to develop actual IT skills in hardware, networking, programming, software development and encompasses all of the peripheral and associated soft skills to support them.

There are also written investigative tasks which promote higher level thinking and improve the student's ability to analyse and solve problems.

Some teaching is delivered via instruction or upfront methods where some is very much student led and focuses on investigation and research.

The programme as a whole is centred on using methods which allow a student to grow and become a fully independent and enquiring learner.

9. Assessment methods

The programme is delivered via 16 units, each unit will have one to three assignments and assignments can be written reports, oral presentations, practical tasks, investigations or product based activities.

Each subject contains a number of learning outcomes and each outcome must be passed to achieve the qualification.
Grades are awarded as either Pass, Merit or Distinction for each unit.

10. Course structure and curriculum

The course is structured as a two year endeavour, 8 units are covered each year. Year 1 is at level 4 and year 2 is at Level 5.

1st Year Subjects.

Unit	Subject	Credit Value	Level	Assessment
1	Business Skills for e-Commerce	15	4	2 Assignments
2	Computer Systems	15	4	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
3	Employability and Professional Development	15	4	1 Assignment
9	Database Design Concepts	15	4	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
14	Website Design	15	4	3 Assignments – 2 x Practical
17	Systems Analysis and Design	15	4	3 Assignments – 2 x Practical
19	Object Oriented Programming	15	4	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
24	Networking Technologies	15	4	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical

2nd Year Subjects – (could be subject to occasional changes)

Unit	Subject	Credit Value	Level	Assessment
4	Project Design and Implementation	20	5	1 Group Assignment -
30	Information Systems in Organisations	15	5	1 Assignment
35	Web Application Development	15	5	3 Assignments – 2 x Practical
37	Digital Graphics Production and Management	15	5	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
42	Programming in .NET	15	5	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
43	Network Infrastructure	15	5	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
44	LAN Technologies	15	5	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical
47	IT Virtualisation	15	5	2 Assignments – 1 x Practical

11. Admission to the course

The entry requirements for this course are as follows:

160 UCAS points (acquired through relevant A Levels or a BTEC Level 3 IT or related qualification)
GCSE English Grade C or above / Functional Skills at Level 2 may be accepted
GCSE Maths Grade C or above / Functional Skills at Level 2 may be accepted
GCSE in 3 other subjects at Grade C or above

12. Support for learning

The college aims to support students on the course via a range of internal and external resources comprising :

- Subject Specialists for each module.
- A Course coordinator to help students understand the programme structure
- A weekly workshop/tutorial session to promote collaboration and peer support.
- An induction period at the beginning of each new academic session
- Electronic copies of course material, resources and major assessments all of which is available via our Virtual Learning Environment which is available from outside the college.

- A substantial Learning Resources Centre.
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- Disabled student support
- The Students' Union

13. **Graduate destinations/employability**

We have relationships with 2 Universities which can provide potential progression routes into final year degree programmes dependent on grades achieved.

Many universities will accept applications to enter degree programmes at second year level.

We work with students to help with progression into industry via direct application.

It is our aim to ensure that all students who complete the HND course have the relevant industrial IT skills and the approach to work that employers are looking for. Alongside the IT skills we aspire to equip all students with the employability skills which employer's value.

14. **Course standards and quality**

Alongside the college's own robust quality standards committee we are also subject to a number of external quality monitors which ensure the quality of our course is maintained, these include :

Regular external verification visits from the awarding body (Pearson/Edexcel).
Attendance by the awarding body to our Exam Boards.
Robust Internal Verification policy
Staff/student consultation committees

15. **Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the College's Assessment Regulations for HNs (located in Section D of the Quality Handbook).

All assignments are governed by a Single Submission policy.
All assignments are to be submitted to pre-determined deadlines.
Any late submission is immediately capped to a maximum Pass grade but will be marked provided the submission is made with 5 working days of the due date.
Any non-submission or submission outside of the 5 day grace period will be referred to the next exam board for a decision as to whether a retake is available.

16. **Additional Information**

Date this course specification approved:

Any additional information: