	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Key dates			Mock ESP – January 2024		Paper 1 – 3 rd May 2024 AM 2Hrs 30Mins Paper 2 – 8 th May 2024 AM 2Hrs 30Mins ESP – 13 th May to 10 th June 2024 14 hours & 30 minutes	Beginning of work experience.
Content Headline	Paper 1 2 –Introduction to programming Paper 2 5 – Business context ESP Pre-mock practice	Paper 1/ESP 1 – Problem solving 2. Introduction to programming (Cont) Paper 2 6 – Data ESP Pre-mock practice	Mock ESP Paper 1 3 – Moral & Ethical Issues Paper 2 7 – Digital Environments	Mock ESP Paper 1 4 – Legislation and regulatory requirements Paper 2 7 – Digital Environments (cont) 8 – Security Risks		
ESP	 2.1 Program Data Understanding basic Python programming. Data types, variables and constants. Program inputs, outputs and string manipulation. The use of data structures e.g. lists/arrays and dictionaries. 2.2 Operators Know how to use mathematical operators. Know how to use relational operators. Understand and using Boolean operators, NOT/AND/OR. 2.3 File handling Understand how to use text files for input/output of data. 2.4 Program structure Understand the terms sequencing, selection & iteration. Be able to write Python programs containing selection & Iteration. 	ESP Pre-mock practice Understand how to set up the report for the ESP and how to structure a response. Understand the requirements of an ESP, and how to meet the criteria. Understand the planning tools necessary to produce software solution, including Gantt charts. Understand how to thoroughly test program code using a test plan. Understand how to effectively plan a software solution using both pseudocode and flowcharts. Understand how to use the Python libraries Matplotlib and Pandas.	ESP Sit the ESP in exam conditions. Use additional sample assessment material.	ESP Completion of mock ESP. Use the feedback from the mock ESP to reteach/revise content.		

	To understand the differences between count-controlled & condition-controlled iteration.				
Paper 1 Content		2.4 Program structure Be able to declare and call functions and procedures. Understand and trace the standard algorithms of linear/binary search & bubble/merge/insertion sort. 2.5 Built in functions Be able to write code that makes use of user-written and pre-written code e.g. built in functions and standard libraries. 2.6 Validation and error handling Understand and use different types of validation to handle common &	3.1 Moral & Ethical issues Understand the ethical and moral issues that an increasing reliance on technology raises, and how organisations and individuals can respond to these challenges. Understand how organisations and individuals respond to ethical and moral issues when designing and developing digital systems Understand how individuals use a range of observational techniques to inform situational awareness. 3.4 Emerging trends & technologies	Understand the role of legislation relating to international law and its importance when designing, developing and using digital systems.	Revision in the lead up to the exams.
Davis and O	Understand the fundamentals of testing, e.g. concept, unit, boundary, integration, performance, system, acceptance & usability, regression & load/stress testing. Understand how to apply root cause analysis to solve problems. Understand how to construct an effective test plan.	validation to handle common & unexpected errors, e.g. presence, length, type, format, range checks. 2.7 Maintainable code Understand what is meant by Python's PEP 8 accepted style convention works.	Understand how developments in digital technologies impact on organisations, individuals and society e.g. IoT, AI, AR & VR.	Understand the purpose and role of codes of conduct produced by professional bodies for the use of digital: BCS & Institute of analysts and programmers code of conduct. Understand the guidelines provided in professional codes of practice, e.g. professional responsibilities, contribution to society, safety, privacy & security and innovation. Understand the impact that implementing guidelines from professional codes of practice has on organisations and their stakeholders. Understand how guidelines and agreed standards ensure the accessibility and quality of IT systems, including ISO, WCAG 1.0 & 2.0, W3C and IETF. Understand the role and implications of acceptable use policies within an organisation	
Paper 2 Content	5.1 The business environment Understand the purpose of different types of organisations in a range of sectors.	6.1 Data and information in organisations Understand the differences and links between data, information & knowledge.	7.1 Physical environments Understand the features and characteristics of different types of physical computer system.	7.3 Virtual Environments Understand the key features of virtual environments (Increased security, managed execution, sharing, aggregation, emulation, isolation & portability.)	Revision in the lead up to the exams.

Understand the key areas of organisations and how IT used to support them.

Understand how digital supports the business needs of organisations.

Understand the factors that determine the feasibility of a digital project.

Understand how digital is used to meet user needs and ensure quality of product/service.

Understand how the characteristics of end users affect the use and characters of digital technologies to access a service or product.

5.2 Digital value to business

Understand the importance of digital within organisations, and the ways in which digital is used to add value to a company.

5.3 Technical change management

Understand the factors that trigger change in organisations.

Understand the technical change management process.

Understand how organisations respond to, prepare for, manage and reinforce change (relevant to digital) in a range of contexts.

Understand the benefits and drawbacks of technical change in organisations.

5.4 Risks in a business context

Understand the potential risks to organisations of use of digital systems and technologies.

Understand the potential impact of identified risks on the organisations and its stakeholders.

Understand why organisations need data and information and how they are used.

Understand how data is generated.

6.2 Data formats

Understand the forms that data can take and the implications this has on use and analysis, e.g. Data types (date, integer, real, character, string, boolean) and common forms of data format (JSON, fixed-width text file, CSV, ASCII & XML).

Understand the differences between file-based and directory-based structures, and how they are used in data analysis.

6.3 Data systems

Understand the features and functions of data systems and their importance to organisations.

Understand the purpose of business information tools and their use in business, e.g. CRM software, business intelligence software and financial planning & analysis.

Understand the features of different data models and how organisations use them to organise data.

6.4 Data management

Understand the factors that determine how data is gathered, entered and maintained.

Understand the purpose of data analysis tools and their use in business.

Understand the role of metadata classification in defining the meanings of data.

Understand the use of data/access entitlements/permissions

Understand the features and characteristics of hardware and peripherals used in physical computer systems.

Understand the purpose and functions of software used in computer systems, including operating systems, application software, utility software & code development tools.

Understand the benefits and drawbacks of software, hardware and peripherals in different contexts.

Understand how physical data storage and recovery systems work, their features, benefits and drawbacks.

7.2 Networks

Understand the benefits and drawbacks of connecting devices to form networks.

Understand the features, characteristics, benefits & drawbacks of wireless connection methods.

Understand the different types of network (LAN, WAN & PAN)

Understand the concepts of bandwidth & latency, and their effect on the performance of networks and connected systems.

Understand the concept of different network models (client-server, thin client & peer-to-peer).

Understand the characteristics of network topologies (logical vs physical, star, mesh, tree, VLAN)

Understand the role and characteristics of common components of a network.

Understand the benefits and drawbacks of the use of virtual environments for organisations in a range of contexts.

7.4 Cloud environments

Understand the ways in which organisations use cloud environments to provide access to digital tools, services, storage & systems.

Understand the concepts of cloud computing deployment in terms of applications, data, runtime, middleware, operating system, virtualisation, servers, storage & networking.

Understand the common cloud delivery models and the way in which responsibility and ownership of resources are distributed between the subscriber and service provider, e.g. laas, Paas & Saas.

Understand the concept of Daas.

Understand how Daas is used by organisations and the benefits and drawbacks it provides for organisations and their stakeholders.

Understand the concept of cloud sourcing and cloud portability, and the implications for service providers and organisations.

7.5 Resilience of environment

Understand the need to ensure digital environments are resilient, and the impact on organisations and stakeholders if this is not achieved.

Understand methods used to improve the resilience of digital environments:

- data and system redundancy
- back-up systems
- hot, cold and warm sites
- data back-up and recovery procedures
- device hardening

Understand the benefits and drawbacks of methods used to improve the resilience of digital environments.

8.1 Security risks

management, and its impact on	Understand the seven layer OSI		
organisations and stakeholders.	model to describe how applications	Understand the importance of maintaining	
	communicate over a network,	privacy and	
Understand how data can be	including the functions and related	confidentiality of an organisation's	
accessed and managed across	protocols on each layer.	information, as well as that of	
different platforms.		stakeholders, including: (information about	
	Understand the four layer TCP/IP	salaries, employee benefits/perks, client lists,	
Understand the concepts of data at	model to describe how applications	trade secrets, sales numbers, customer	
rest, data in use and data in motion,	communicate over a network,	information, news about pending	
and when each is used.	including the function and related protocols of each layer.	restructuring).	
		Understand the potential impact on an	
	Understand the role of data packets in transmitting over a network.	organisation of failing to maintain privacy and confidentiality.	
	Understand the role of common	Understand potential technical threats and	
	network protocols: DHCP, DNS, FTP,	vulnerabilities to	
	HTTP/S, NTP, POP3/IMAP4/SMTP, TCP/IP	systems, data and information, including: • botnets	
		distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)	
	Understand how physical, virtual and	hacking	
	cloud environments along with	malware (including ransomware)	
	networks are used in combination	social engineering (pharming, phishing)	
	including the Internet of Things, to	insecure Application Programming	
	solve problems and meet the needs	Interfaces (APIs)	
	of organisations.	use of ad hoc or open networks	
		eavesdropping/man-in-the-middle attacks.	
	Understand the key features of		
	virtual environments.	Understand potential physical vulnerabilities	
	Understand the benefits &	to systems, data and information, including:	
	drawbacks of the use of virtual	location of system or asset	
	environments for organisations in a	circumstances of use	
	range of contexts.	characteristics of users/community	
		• system or asset layout	
		• system or asset design/robustness.	
		Understand potential human threats and	
		vulnerabilities to systems,	
		data and information, including:	
		human error	
		malicious employees	
		disguised criminals	
		targeted attack.	
		8.2 Threat Mitigation	
		Understand the concept of the CIA	
		(confidentiality, integrity,	
		availability) and how it can be applied to	
		define security aims.	
		Understand the interrelationship between	
		security, identity,	
		confidentiality, integrity, availability, threat,	
		vulnerability and risk	

			management within a business context.
			Understand processes and procedures to mitigate threats and ensure security, including: • air gapping • anti-virus and anti-malware programs • certification of APIs • configuration and management of software-based access control • device hardening • encryption (hashing, asymmetric, symmetric) • user access restrictions • usernames, passwords and passphrases • data access levels/permissions • physical access control/restrictions • multi-factor authentication (possession-based, biometric, knowledge, location-based) • firewalls • password managers • policy, policy enforcement and training • SYN cookies • use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) • security testing (penetration festing,
Assessment	Q1	Q2	white/grey hat hackers). Q3
1434331113111	Programming Paper Theory paper 5.1 to 5.3	Programming and Theory Papers	Paper 1 and Paper 2 full mock.