

AQA GCSE Computer Science 8525

Specification changes for exams in 2027

Page number	Changes for 2025 specification update
57	<p>Knowledge of this type of architecture as the Von Neumann architecture is no longer required.</p> <p>It is still important to realise that both programs and data are stored in main memory (RAM or ROM).</p>
60, 61, 62	<p>Optical storage has been removed from the specification. The first column in the table has been retained for additional information along with any references to CDs, DVDs or Blu-ray. Ignore question 3(b) at the bottom of page 61. There is no longer a requirement to know about optical drives or the pits and lands diagram on the right of page 62.</p>
68	<p>Whilst the specification no longer expects knowledge of the term Wi-Fi or Ethernet, you need to be aware of wireless networks and wireless LAN (WLAN) is the same as Wi-Fi. You also need to be aware of cable types and copper Ethernet cable is a common type of cable used to create wired networks.</p> <p>At the bottom of page 68, Wi-Fi is an example of a 'Wireless connection' and Ethernet is an example of a 'Wired connection'.</p>
69	<p>Topologies, star networks and bus networks have been removed from the specification.</p>
70	<p>Ethernet and Wi-Fi have been removed from the specification. You still need to be aware of wireless and wired networks and also the need for Network Interface Cards (NIC).</p> <p>FTP (File Transfer Protocol) and UDP (User Datagram Protocol) have been removed from the specification so these rows in the table are no longer needed.</p> <p>In the answer to question (c) you only need to know about the IMAP protocol. You can ignore the older alternative POP protocol which has been removed from the specification.</p>
71	<p>In the 4-layer model you no longer need to be aware of FTP, UDP or Ethernet.</p> <p>In the Link layer you should be aware of MAC addressing. This layer is also where operating system device drivers are located.</p>
74	<p>Question 1: Star topologies are no longer a mandatory requirement of the specification.</p> <p>Question 3(b): Wi-Fi is an example of a wireless connection.</p> <p>Question 5: in the table, 'Wi-Fi access' refers to wireless access.</p>
97	<p>The answers for 1(b) and the diagram are no longer required for the examination from 2027. 1(c) could alternatively be copper cable.</p>
98	<p>3(b) references to Wi-Fi can be replaced with wireless.</p>