

# CST IA-all Computer Fundamentals:Harle

CST IA & IA25

Results of survey

Started: 27 October 2011

Ended: 10 November 2011

Reply rate: 78% ( 98 / 126 )

## CST IA-all Computer Fundamentals:Harle

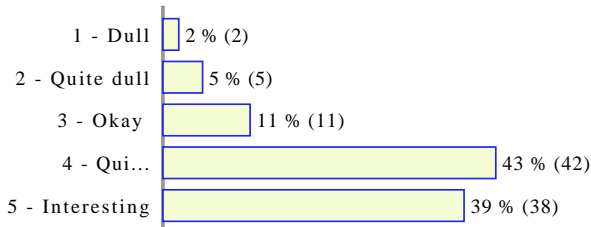
The Tripos Management Committee welcomes feedback and comments on all Computer Science Tripos courses. The Committee uses your feedback to improve and maintain the quality of teaching. Please complete the survey and then click submit.

### Course/Group Items:

#### Syllabus

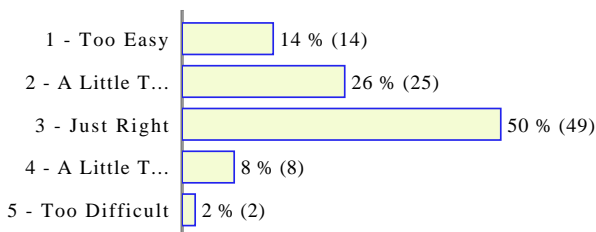
##### 1. How interesting did you find this course?

98 answers, mean = 4.11



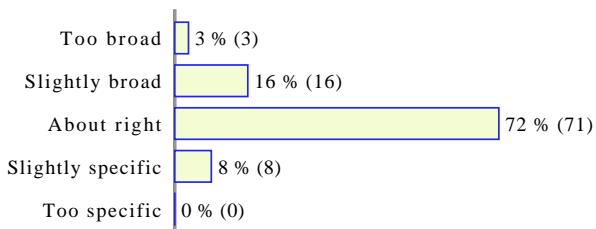
##### 2. How did you find the level of the material?

98 answers, mean = 2.58



##### 3. How did you find the breadth of coverage?

98 answers, mean = 2.86



##### 4. Do you have any suggestions for improving the syllabus?

- There aren't many resources for ML online. A glossary of all the functions would be great.
- Not really - dull for people who know it but necessary for those who don't/
- A greater depth in the topic, as seen in Jean Bacon's 2003 lecture notes from Operating Systems on computer fundamentals (pages 1-26).
- Given the range of abilities, no. You're always going to find people with my responses (too broad) but when trying to summarise and roll up a syllabus into one, it needs to be broad for summary's sake.
- Syllabus is so short that few suggestions can be made
- An explanation of the flags register would have made binary addition make more sense.
- I appreciate that this was a short introductory course, but I

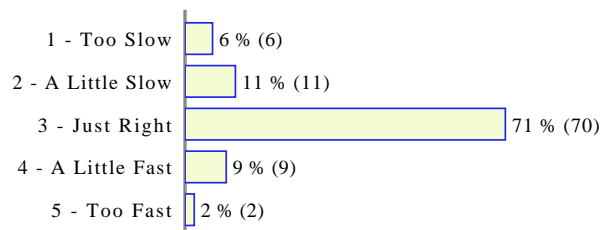
feel that a lot was covered in such a short time that I didn't really learn much about anything, just a very little about a lot of things, which will mean I will probably forget it all. I would have preferred to cover slightly less but in more detail

- It will be worth to at least mention John Atanasoff.
- Would have liked to know a little more about the history of computers given that this is an introductory course and that some of the material is covered later on (e.g. in OSES) anyway.
- Go into more depth - indeed, go back to the level of the lectures by Jean Bacon in 2002~6
- Konrad Zuse wasn't mentioned at all. I would have liked to hear a little bit more technical stuff about the components and how they work. I understand though, that this cannot be done if no initial knowledge is assumed. But as most people have this knowledge and the material is non-examinable, it could still be included.

#### Lectures

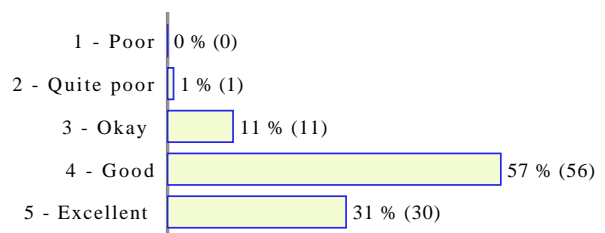
##### 5. How did you find the pace of the lectures?

98 answers, mean = 2.90



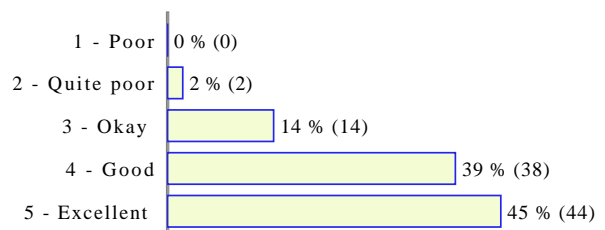
##### 6. How did you find the organisation of the lectures?

98 answers, mean = 4.17



##### 7. How did you find the clarity of the lectures?

98 answers, mean = 4.27



##### 8. Do you have any other comments about the lectures?

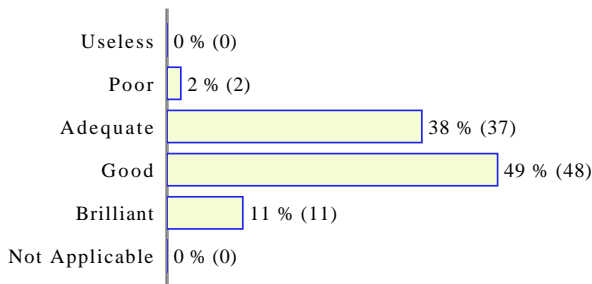
- The lectures were stimulating and enjoyable, mostly down to the quality of the lecturer.
- Enjoyable and basic enough for those who hadn't met concepts whilst not being patronising to those who had.

- Very good lecturer
- Really enjoyed them, seemed to be a very good introduction to the Fundamentals of Computer Science and Harle was a very engaging and interesting lecturer.
- Dr Harle is a fantastic lecturer. Funny, and to the point.
- The lecturer was great! Very easy to understand and pay attention to.
- I had done 90% of it before, but had a friend who had done none of it.
- Good introduction to CompSci, and the history was very interesting.
- The coding part could have been done better, I feel. Jumping backwards and forwards from screen to screen can make people lose focus as to what's where.
- Dr Harle is an incredible lecturer
- More clarity regarding which parts will be tested in the exam would be good.
- The lecturer's teaching style was great, and while it might be difficult to emulate in more advanced modules, I think it could serve as a model.
- The lecturer was very good but the breadth of material covered meant the lectures were quite rushed and glossed over details.
- It would be helpful if the lecturer uses a mic as it is hard to hear him when there is lots of coughing.
- Very entertainingly done while informative.

## Course Materials

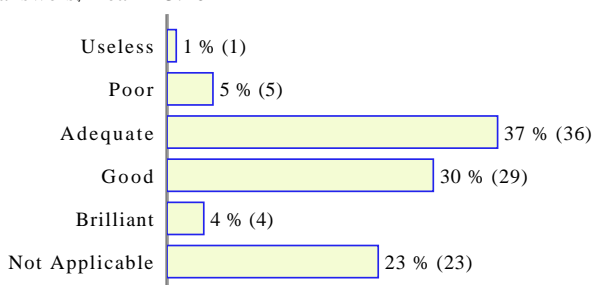
### 9. How did you find the lecture notes?

98 answers, mean = 3.69



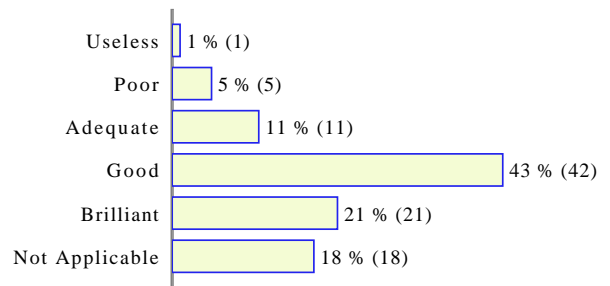
### 10. How did you find the exercises?

75 answers, mean = 3.40



### 11. How were your supervisions for this course?

80 answers, mean = 3.96



## Further Comments

### 12. What was the best thing about the course?

- History of computing.
- I think the lectures were definitely a good point in the course but finding out a greater depth of knowledge than I already knew helped me
- Harle really made it very interesting, so it was very enjoyable, whilst bringing us all up to speed on the basics of Computer Science.
- Accompanying supervisions ended up going into much more depth.
- Everything is almost perfect.
- The lecturer
- Quality of lecturing
- The history of computing was interesting
- History of Computing
- Learning how computer works.
- The engaging manner in which the lecture was given, and the coverage of computing history.
- cpu stuff.
- Going over the very taxing supervision work
- The lecturer and the stories he told us.
- Getting a better understanding of how computers actually work
- Selection of material being cover during lectures.
- The breadth of interesting and historical information.
- The historical things like mercury delay lines, EDSAC, and Turing.
- The lecturer's teaching style, which was lively, used appropriate technology, and had plenty of interesting anecdotes inserted into more serious content.
- Learning about the origins of modern computing
- Learning about the history of computing

- Great lecturer.
- Genuinely interesting, I like the problem solving aspect of programming a lot.
- The extra historical details were really interesting.
- It was short, yet we learned quite a lot.
- Lecturer was very good, I thought. Good clarity and understanding, and he seemed enthusiastic about teaching and the material.
- The history part was fascinating.
- Outline of the history of computer science.
- The breadth and openness
- It was quite an interesting topic
- I liked the style of the lectures. Dr Harle managed to keep me interested all the time.
- Dr. Harle - he covered the material both clearly and well.
- I appreciate the idea of a general introduction.

### 13. What was the worst thing about the course?

- Very short, non-examinable.
- The course covered many points which had been covered when I was at school, but It was helpful in getting everyone to the same level.
- Pace/ease!
- I don't think I have any complaint about the course.
- It exists
- Slight lack of content (possibly inevitable due to how early in term the course is)
- I had done most of it before.
- N/A
- The lectures were too fast, making it quite unclear.
- It progressed too fast for people who had no previous knowledge and the notes did not explain in enough detail.
- I already knew much of the material.
- The slow pace and little new material covered for a CompSci with computing knowledge (pre-uni reading on computer fundamentals should be compulsory)
- History sections.
- Too small number of lectures.
- The practice problems were a little easy.
- Nothing really.
- not learning enough about the origins of modern computing!

- I think the practicals are particularly stupidly arranged... Having to go drop off work the day before, then go to the Comp sci Labs at 2.30, and then come back again at 5 just seems unnecessarily complicated.
- Sometimes the lecturer went a bit off-topic.
- That it's the first of three in a row in the morning.
- I did A-level Computing so there was very little that I hadn't already covered in depth before.
- Obviously aimed at those who haven't done anything CompSci related before.
- The pacing in between different lectures was a little off (very minor complaint), and there was no supervision for it!
- I really can't see a reason to complain.

### 14. Do you have any further comments?

- A slightly more in-depth look at floating point arithmetic might be useful
- The notes were good but if there was something that I did not understand at the time in the lecture, the notes did not provide enough detail for me to read up on and understand after the lecture
- NO
- Hope to have Dr Harle again soon
- Would have preferred slightly more time spent on the negative number binary representation section.
- I found the course easy as most of it was just recapping the A-level course I took, and programming basics which I'm already familiar with.
- Good course.
- It's a good overview course, that suits it's purpose perfectly.