

2015 specification
for the 2025 exam



PAPER 1 EXAM RESOURCE PACK 2025

for A Level AQA Computer Science

VB.NET EDITION

- DIGITAL RESOURCE -

This pack includes paper versions of the electronic files.

Go to zzed.uk/ProductSupport to download the electronic files.



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Printouts of electronic resources (for reference)

- Code Breakdown (9 pages)
- Training Game Expressions (1 page)
- UML Class Diagram: Complete (1 page)**
- UML Class Diagram: Activity (1 page)*
- Theory Questions: Non-write-on Version (3 pages)
- Theory Questions: Write-on Version (6 pages)
- Coding Tasks (21 pages)
- Additional Tasks (Extension) (2 pages)
- Theory Questions: Mark Scheme (3 pages)**
- Coding Tasks: Mark Scheme (47 pages)**
- Electronic Answer Document (EAD) (3 pages)

** Note there are also electronic copies of the UML Diagrams ('Complete' & 'Activity' versions) provided.*

*** The electronic PDF versions of these files are password-protected, so that students can only access them with your permission. Passwords can be found in the Teacher's Introduction on page iv.*

Teacher's Introduction

Target Clear is a single-player game which is a cross between the 1980s game *Space Invaders* and the TV game show *Countdown*.

The user is given a list of five numbers which they can use to create a mathematical expression. The game has a list of 20 target numbers. On each turn, the user enters a mathematical expression which they are aiming to evaluate to one of the targets in the Targets list. This removes the target from the Targets list. The first five elements in the Targets list are blank – giving the user some empty space. However, after each turn the list moves one index to the left, slowly moving the targets into that empty space. If a target gets all the way to the left-hand side of the list, the game is over.

The expression entered by the user can only use the mathematical operators $+$, $-$, $/$, $*$. The expression cannot include brackets but will correctly interpret the precedence of the accepted operators.

If the user enters an expression which evaluates to one (or more than one) target in the Targets list, that target is removed, and points are awarded to the user. The list then moves to the left.

If the user enters an expression which does not evaluate to one of the targets in the Targets list, points are deducted from the user and the list moves to the left.

This resource aims to help you get to grips with and prepare for the A Level Paper 1 examination for summer 2025, which is partly based on the **Target Clear** pre-release material.

DIGITAL RESOURCE

Once you have downloaded the files for this resource via (zzed.uk/ProductSupport) you will have access to the following:



TargetClear	this folder contains all of the content (PDF/DOCX) accessible via a HTML interface
Passwords.txt	for teacher use – this file contains all of the passwords for the protected PDFs (also listed below)

* PRINTED COPIES OF ALL THE MATERIALS IN THIS DIGITAL RESOURCE PACK ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE.

Installation: Extract the files from the downloaded ZIP file and move the entire TargetClear folder onto a network location that is accessible for students, and provide them with a shortcut to the index.html file. All content can be accessed from this page.

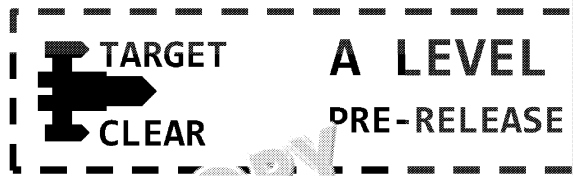
Passwords: All of the PDFs accessible via the *Solutions* web page are password-protected, so that students can only access them with your permission. Each password is a four-digit code, as follows:

- vb02a-UML-Diagam-Complete.pdf
- vb06-TheoryQuestions-MS.pdf
- vb07-CodingTasks-MS.pdf

The resource pack consists of the following sections:

- **Code breakdown:** a detailed technical overview of the skeleton program, describing in detail each class and method in turn – including their purpose/function, parameters and return values. Note that this is intended as a helpful reference document only, and not as a substitute for exploring the code in a practical manner.
- **Training game expressions:** a list of expressions which evaluate to all the values in the **Targets** list using the values in the **NumbersAllowed** list. Some of these expressions use operators which are not valid in the base version of the pre-release code but will give students an opportunity to develop extension solutions and test them.
- **UML class diagram activity:** requires you to study the program and fill in the gaps with the missing class/method names, data types, associations and access levels.
- **Video:** a quick overview of the **Target Clear** game mechanics – intended as a visual aid to accompany the notes in the official AQA pre-release material.
- **Theory questions:** designed to test your understanding of the skeleton program. These questions require access to the program, but no modifications need to be made to the program. Write-on (with answer lines) and non-write-on versions are available.
- **Coding tasks:** there are 19 modification tasks to test your programming skills – as well as an additional 13 modification ideas that you may also want to try as extension tasks.
- **Solutions / Mark Schemes** for: UML Diagram Activity, Theory Questions, and Coding Tasks.

This resource is intended to supplement your teaching only. **Please read full disclaimer (p. iii) before using it.**



Skeleton Code Breakdown

Static Methods

Identifier / Description	
CheckIfUserInputValid	
Parameters	Targets : Integer List UserInputInRPN : String List Score : Int
Return values	UserInputEvaluationIsATarget : Bool
<p>This method checks if the evaluation of the expression in the Targets list and awards points accordingly.</p> <p>The method firstly calls the EvaluateRPN method which evaluates the user inputted expression and returns a UserInputEvaluation.</p> <p>The method then sets the UserInputEvaluation variable has a default of False.</p> <p>The method tests if the UserInputEvaluation is a valid UserInputInRPN could not be evaluated. If the method performs a count-controlled loop through the Targets list. The loop compares the UserInputEvaluation with the Targets list. If a match is found the Score is incremented by 1 and the UserInputEvaluation is set to True.</p> <p>Once the loop is complete, the current Score is returned.</p>	
CheckIfUserInputValid	
Parameters	UserInput : String
Return values	Bool
<p>This method uses a Regular Expression to validate the infix expression. The Regular Expression is used to check if the UserInput parameter matches the pattern.</p> <p>The Regular Expression used is: <code>^[0-9+\-*/\(\)\.]*</code></p> <p>To match, the UserInput parameter must contain only mathematical operators which can only be used as literal characters. This entire expression must be repeated one or many times. The string must end with a space character.</p> <p>If the UserInput parameter matches the pattern, the method returns True, otherwise it returns False.</p>	

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CheckNumbersUsedAreAllInNumbersAllowed		
Parameters	NumbersAllowed : Integer List UserInputInRPN : String List MaxNumber : Int	This method is used to test if the number The method firstly creates a temporary the NumbersAllowed list assigning copy lists are copy and passed as reference comparison list when it finds them to print NumbersAllowed list. If the method returns would impact the application elsewhere
Return values	Bool	
<p>The method then iterates through the UserInputInRPN list using the <code>CheckValidNumber</code> to confirm the element is a number to ensure that only operands are compared. The method subsequently checks if the operand is contained in the <code>Temp</code> list. If the operand is not contained in the <code>Temp</code> list because it has found an operand which is not a number, the method returns <code>False</code>.</p> <p>The <code>CheckValidNumber</code> check does not return <code>True</code> if the <code>UserInputInRPN</code> does not meet with the <code>MaxNumber</code> parameter. If the operand is greater than <code>MaxNumber</code>, the method returns <code>False</code>.</p>		
CheckValidNumber		
Parameters	Item : String MaxNumber : Int	This method checks if a value passed to it is a This method uses a Regular Expression to check if the integer number.
Return values	Bool	
<p>The Regular Expression used is: <code>^[0-9]+</code></p> <p>To match, the <code>Item</code> parameter must be a string. To use the Regular Expression pattern, the method uses the <code>Regex.IsMatch</code> method. The method then tests if the <code>Item</code> is equal to the <code>MaxNumber</code> parameter. If the <code>Item</code> is not equal to the <code>MaxNumber</code> parameter, the method returns <code>False</code>.</p>		

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ConvertToRPN	
Parameters	UserInput : String
Return values	UserInputInRPN: String List
<p>This method converts the infix expression to a version of the shunting yard algorithm.</p> <p>Initialises the following local variables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position to 0. This is used to identify the current character in the expression. • Precedence to Dictionary of type <int, string> with an associated value. Multiplication and Subtraction. This is used to allow the algorithm to not recognise Brackets or Indices. • Operand as an integer. This uses the value of the number in the infix notation. • UserInputInRPN as a list of strings casted as a string. • Operators as a list of strings. This is used to store the operators from the UserInput expression. <p>The method then enters a condition-compile loop. The Operand is updated using the GetNumber method. The Position variable is passed to the GetNumber variable within that method as it iterates through the expression. The updated Operand is appended to the expression (assuming it is valid) multiple times.</p> <p>If the Position variable is less than the length of the expression which have not been processed, the method has just extracted an operand from the expression. The CurrentOperator stores this in the variable CurrentOperator and increments the Position variable in the Operators list by position. The CurrentOperator compares their worth. If the value is less than the CurrentOperator, it is added to the Operators list. The CurrentOperator is then added to the Operators list. Division functions are added to the UserInputInRPN.</p> <p>If the Position variable is not less than the length of the expression, the operators from the string have been extracted. The method then returns the completed expression.</p>	



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CreateTargets		
Parameters	SizeOfTargets : Int MaxTarget : Int	This method populates the Targets list
Return values	Targets : Integer List	The method initialises the Targets integer list with five indices with the value -1.
		It then uses a second count-controlled loop to continue populating the list with values. In a standard pre-release game this will result in a list of 50 targets.
DisplayNumbersAllowed		
Parameters	NumbersAllowed : Integer List	This method is used to display all the values in the NumbersAllowed list.
Return values		The method iterates through the NumbersAllowed list and displays each value.
DisplayScore		
Parameters	Score : Int	This method displays the current game score.
Return values	n/a	
DisplayState		
Parameters	Targets : Integer List NumbersAllowed : Integer List Score : Int	This method displays the current state of the game.
Return values	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DisplayTargets – to display the current targets • DisplayNumbersAllowed – to display the numbers allowed • DisplayScore – to display the current score
DisplayTargets		
Parameters	Targets : Integer List	This method is used to display all the values in the Targets list.
Return values	n/a	The method iterates through the Targets list and displays each value followed by a pipe symbol .
		The method iterates through the Targets list and displays each value followed by a pipe symbol . If the value is -1, a blank space is displayed onto the screen, otherwise the value is displayed.



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EvaluateRPN		
Parameters	UserInputInRPN : String List	This method evaluates the RPN version of the expression. It evaluates to an integer (positive or negative). This method initializes a string list S . The controller then iterates through the UserInputInRPN list. The method iterates through the UserInputInRPN list, adding elements which are not operators (+, -, *, /) and pushing their integer values from the start of the post-fix list to the variables Num2 and Num1 (essential for the next evaluation). This process is repeated until the UserInputInRPN has been evaluated and the list S only now contains the result. The method then subtracts a truncated value from Num2. If Num2 evaluates to 0.0, then the result must have been a decimal and therefore cast as an integer is returned. If not, the result is cast as a decimal and therefore returned.
Return values	Int	
FillNumbers		
Parameters	NumbersAllowed : Integer List TrainingGame : Bool MaxNumber : Int	This method regulates the NumbersAllowed list. If the TrainingGame parameter is True, a pre-generated list with the values 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 is used. If not, a condition-controlled loop to append values to the NumbersAllowed list until the list contains MaxNumber values. If the TrainingGame parameter is False, a condition-controlled loop to append values to the NumbersAllowed list until the list contains MaxNumber values.
Return values	NumbersAllowed : Integer List	
GetNumber		
Parameters	Number : Int	This method returns a random number between 1 and Number.
Return values	Int	



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GetNumberFromUserInput		
Parameters	UserInput : String Position : Int	This method is used to extract numbers converted into postfix.
Return values	Int	The method initializes / instantiates an empty string variable. The loop iterates through the UserInput parameter to set the index of the reference rather than by value, therefore it finishes. Each character is checked using the %>9. If it is, it is concatenated onto the Number variable. If it is not, it is ignored. If the Expression, it must be an operator which is not a digit. The loop also exits if the Position variable is iterated to the end of the string.
 <p>If the Number variable is an empty string, the method returns -1. If the Number variable is not empty, it returns the value of the Number variable.</p>		

GetTarget		
Parameters	MaxTarget : Int	This method returns a random number between 0 and MaxTarget.
Return values	Int	

GetNumber		
Parameters	MaxNumber : Int	This method returns a random number between 0 and MaxNumber.
Return values	Int	

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Main	
Parameters	default
Return values	n/a
<p>This is the main entrance point for the application. It is used to start a standard game with a randomly generated list of targets or a training game with fixed content lists.</p> <p>It initializes the following variables with the following values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NumberAllowed as an integer list. • Targets as an integer list. • MaxNumberOfTargets as an integer. • MaxTarget as an integer. • MaxNumber as an integer. • TrainingGame as a Boolean. <p>The method asks the user if they would like to play a training game. If the user selects a training game, then the following values are used in the game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MaxTarget = 1000 • MaxNumber = 1000 • TrainingGame = True • The Targets list is populated with 20 random integers between 1 and 1000. <p>If the user does not select a training game, then the following values are used later in the game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MaxTarget = 10 • MaxNumber = 50 • TrainingGame = False • The Targets list is populated with 20 random integers between 1 and 10 (inclusive). <p>The method then calls the FillNumbers method to generate the list of numbers and the PlayGame method to start the game.</p>	



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PlayGame		
Parameters	Targets : Integer List NumbersAllowed : Integer List TrainingGame : Bool MaxTarget : Int MaxNumber : Int	Initialises the following local variables with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score to 0 • GameOver to False. • UserInput as a string. • UserInputInRPN as a list of strings These variables are then used and populated.
Return values	n/a	The method then enters into the main algorithm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GameOver variable. The loop operates as long as GameOver is set to False. • Call the DisplayState method pass the Score and Targets to display the current values in these variables. • Prompt the user to enter an infix mathematical expression into the UserInput variable. • Call the CheckIfUserInputValid method to check if the input is a valid infix expression. • If the input is valid, the ConvertToRPN method is called which converts the infix UserInput into reverse Polish notation UserInputInRPN. • Call the CheckNumbersUsedAreValid method to check if the NumbersAllowed list, UserInputInRPN and Score are valid. • If all the values in the UserInputInRPN list are valid, the CheckIfUserInputEvaluationIsATarget method is called. This method checks if the UserInputInRPN list and the Score are valid. If the Score is a target, the Score is incremented rather than as a value. • If UserInputInRPN evaluates to one, the Score is appropriately incremented. The RemoveFromRPN method is called, passing in the UserInputInRPN list, Score and MaxNumber variables to backfill the UserInputInRPN list. • The Score variable is then decremented. If the Score is successfully identified a target. • The method then tests to see if the GameOver variable is set to True. If it is, the UpdateTargets method is called, passing in the Targets list and TrainingGame as parameters. This method updates the Targets list one index to the left. If the GameOver variable has been set to True, the method returns "Game Over!" and the final Score are displayed.



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RemoveNumbersUsed		
Parameters	UserInput : String MaxNumber : Int NumbersAllowed : Integer List	This method removes any numbers from an evaluation match with a target.
Return values	n/a	The method first calls the ConvertToRPN method to convert the user input expression. Although when using the ConvertToRPN method the UserInputInRPN list is passed by default, passed as references not by value. The method then calls the CheckIfUserInputEvaluationIsATarget method to check the UserInputInRPN list, consequently ReturnValidNumber expression from the user to rebuild a new expression.
		The method then iterates through the UserInputInRPN list and calls the CheckValidNumber to confirm the element is a valid number to ensure that only operands are compared. The method then checks if the operand is contained in the NumbersAllowed list.



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UpdateTargets		
Parameters	Targets : Integer List TrainingGame : Bool MaxTarget : Int	This method uses a count-controlled loop to backfill the list with a new value. This reinitializes the list.
Return values	n/a	The method firstly iterates through the Targets list. This has the effect of moving each value to the end of the list.
		The method then removes the last element from the list.
		The method then uses selection on the Targets list to determine if the training game is on. If the value at the end of the list is False, the user has not completed the game. The method then adds the value of the parameter MaxTarget to the Targets list (inclusive) and adds it to the end of the list.

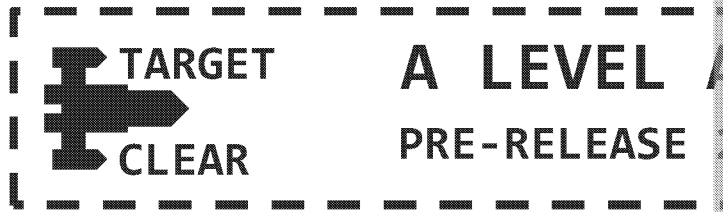


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Training Game Expression

Below are expressions which will evaluate to each of the targets in the Target Number Approved list.

Most are not usable given the limitations of the pre-release base code, but they are for developing their own solutions to test:

$$68 = 512 / 8 + 3 + 2 + 2$$

$$23 = (8 + 2) * 2 + 3$$

$$34 = 512 / 8 / 2 + 2$$

$$119 = 512 / 8 * 2 - 3^2$$

$$9 = 3 - 2 + 8$$

$$140 = (512 / 2 + 8 * 3) / 2$$

$$82 = ((512 - 8) / 3) / 2 - 2$$

$$121 = ((512 / 8) - 2) * 2 - 3$$

$$75 = 512 / 8 + 3^2 + 2$$

$$45 = (8 - 3) * \log_2 512$$

$$43 = (\text{Concatenate } 2 \text{ and } \log_8 512) * 2$$

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UML Class Diagram

Activity

	Module1
RGen. Random	
Main(): void PlayGame(int [], int [], bool, int, int): void <input type="text"/> (int [], str [], int): bool RemoveNumbersUsed(str, int, int []): void UpdateTargets(int [], bool, int): void CheckNumbersUsedAreAllInNumbersAllowed(int [], str [], int): bool CheckValidNumber(str, int): bool DisplayState(int [], int [], int): void DisplayScore(int): void DisplayNumbersAllowed(<input type="text"/>): void DisplayTargets(int []): void ConvertToRPN(str): str [] <input type="text"/> (str []): int GetNumberFromUserInput(str, int): int CheckIfUserInputValid(str): bool GetTarget(int): int GetNumber(int): int CreateTargets(int, int): <input type="text"/> FillNumbers(int [], bool, int): int []	



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Theory Questions

These questions are designed to test your understanding of the skeleton code and to the kinds of question you can expect to see in Section C of the Paper 1 exam. Questions that are more than 2 marks are rarely seen in this section – these more involved questions challenge your understanding of the code.



These questions refer to the **Preliminary Material** and the **Skeleton Code** but **do not** require any additional programming.

TOTAL MARKS: 57

- This question is about the **Main()** subroutine.
 - Explain why the **Choice** variable is converted to lower case in the program.
 - Explain the purpose of the **TrainingGame** variable in the program.
- This question is about the **PlayGame()** subroutine. It repeatedly calls **GetPlayerInput()**. Explain the purpose of this repeated call and how it contributes to the game.
- This question is about the **RemoveNumbersUsed()** function.
 - Identify what **UserInputInRPN** represents within this function.
 - Explain the logic used to remove numbers from the **NumbersAllowed** array.
- This question is about the function **CheckIfUserInputEvaluationIsAtLeastTarget()** which is used to modify the player's score.
 - What condition needs to be met to increase the player's score?
 - Why is the target set to -1 after it has been evaluated successfully?
- This question is about the function **CheckValidNumber()**. The function uses a regular expression to validate user input.
 - Explain the purpose of using the regular expression in this function and how the regular expression works to validate user input.
 - What could happen if the regular expression pattern was changed to include the **+** character?
- This question is about the **EvaluateRPN()** function. It evaluates expressions in Reverse Polish Notation (RPN).
 - Briefly describe how Reverse Polish Notation works and how it can be used to evaluate expressions.
 - What would happen if an invalid operation (e.g. division by zero) is attempted?

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Theory Questions

These questions are designed to test your understanding of the skeleton code and to the kinds of question you can expect to see in Section C of the Paper 1 exam. Questions that are more than 2 marks are rarely seen in this section – these more involved questions challenge your understanding of the code.



These questions refer to the **Preliminary Material** and the **Skeleton Code** but **do not** require any additional programming.

TOTAL MARKS: 57

1. This question is about the **Main()** subroutine.
 - (a) Explain why the **Choice** variable is converted to lower case in the code.

 - (b) Explain the purpose of the **TrainingGame** variable in the program.

2. This question is about the **PlayGame()** subroutine. It repeatedly calls **PlayGame()**. Explain the purpose of this repeated call and how it contributes to the game.

3. This question is about the **RemoveNumbersUsed()** function.
 - (a) Identify what the **InputInRPN** represents within this function.

 - (b) Explain the logic used to remove numbers from the **NumbersAllowed** array.

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18. Explain how this program demonstrates the concepts of abstraction and the use of functions.

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19. This question is about the **UpdateTargets()** function. The function implements targets down by one position each time it is called. What is the time complexity?

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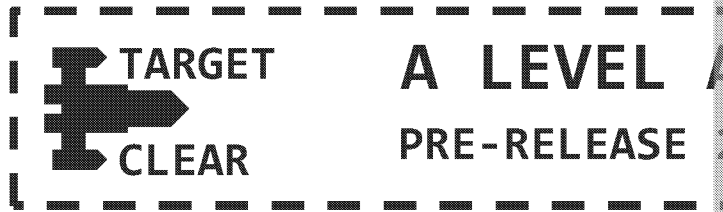
END OF QUESTIONS

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Programming Tasks

These questions require you to load the **Skeleton Program** and to make

Note that any alternative or additional code changes that are deemed appropriate ensuring that it is clear where in the Skeleton Program those change

The objective of this resource is to provide you with a selection of different questions. Some questions are more prescriptive than others in how the task should be completed, giving a range of learners. Questions which have a similar theme may use different techniques or options on how to solve problems. Some Regular Expression solutions use meta-characters beyond the AQA 7517 specification but make the solution considerably simpler. Students are encouraged to use these techniques to save coding time in the section D portion of the exam.

Students are recommended to start with a clean copy of the pre-release code for all questions in this resource. This will prevent modifications made for one question being used for a different question.

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Task 1

This question extends the Skeleton Program to allow the user to end the game by entering the word "QUIT". Modify the application to allow the user to enter the word "QUIT" to end the game rather than entering an expression. The program should display the final score.

What you need to do

Task 1.1

Update the `PlayGame` method to allow the user to enter the word "QUIT" in the input field. Ensure that the code does not decrement the score on that turn.

Test the user input to either play the turn if they enter an expression or quit the game and display the current score.

Task 1.2

Test that the changes you have made work:

- Run the Skeleton Program.
- Enter `y` to start a training game.
- Enter the expression: $8+3-2$
- Show the program correctly identifying the target 9 and awarding the user 9 points.
- When prompted for another expression, enter the word: `QUIT`
- Show the program displaying the "Game over!" message and the final score.

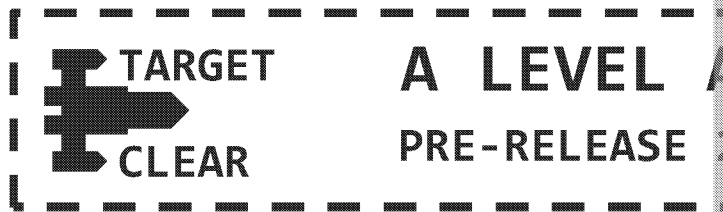
Evidence that you need to provide:

- Your PROGRAM SOURCE CODE showing the modifications to the `PlayGame` method.
- SCREEN CAPTURE(S) showing the required tests.

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Programming Tasks (Extensions)

Extension 1

The random game has default values of 10 for `MaxNumber` and 50 for `MaxAttempts`. Introduce a new `GameMode` enum type and add functionality for levels in the game which adjust these values. Introduce a new menu option for the user to select from the following options:

Game Mode	MaxNumber	MaxAttempts
Easy	6	30
Medium	20	100
Hard	50	100
Extreme	100	750

Extension 2

Introduce new functionality of "Timed Challenge Mode". In this mode, the user has a limited number of attempts (e.g. 20) to identify all the targets. If the user fails to identify the targets within the allowed attempts, the game ends, and the final score is displayed. If the user achieves the challenge, they are awarded an additional 50 points. Add the necessary input prompts and logic to handle this mode.

Extension 3

Modify the application to include two `Targets` lists, enabling a two-player game. The `Targets` lists should be shown on the screen at each turn, one above the other, together with the `NumbersAllowed` list. Both players should use the same `NumbersAllowed` list which should operate as a shared resource. Player 1 should identify targets in `Targets` list 1. Player 2 should identify targets in `Targets` list 2.

A player wins the game by being the first to achieve 20 points. A player loses the game if their `Targets` list reaches the first index in their `Targets` list.

Extension 4

Modify the application to include two `NumbersAllowed` lists, enabling a competitive two-player game. Each player has their own `NumbersAllowed` list. On each turn, each player identifies a target from their own `NumbersAllowed` list which can only use values from their own list. This will evaluate to two operands. The user then enters a third expression which uses these two operands to identify a target. The user's calculation is then used to identify targets.

Extension 5

Modify the `CheckIfUserInputEvaluationIsATarget` method to allow a different score to be awarded depending on how close the user's calculation is to a target. Award 5 points if the user's calculation is exactly the target. Award 3 points if the user's calculation is within 5 of the target and 2 points if the user's calculation is within 10 of the target.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Question		Suggested Solution
11	(a)	Exception handling can be useful to catch and manage runtime errors, such as invalid input errors (e.g. division by zero). It ensures that the program doesn't crash and can recover gracefully by informing the user of the issue. [1]
	(b)	Exception handling could be added in EvaluateRPN() to catch division by zero errors, allow the program to display an error message and request a new input, preventing crashing. [1]
12	(a)	The GameOver variable is set to True when the first element in the Targets list is no longer a positive number (Targets[0] != -1). [1]
	(b)	It prevents the loop from running indefinitely by ensuring that the game ends when all relevant conditions have been met. [1]
13		Any 2 from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The highest score is stored in a file or a database. [1] At the start of each game, the file/database would be read to retrieve the previous high score. [1] At the end of each game, if the new score exceeds the old high score, the file/database would be updated with the new value. [1]
14	(a)	CreateTargets / FillNumbers / ConvertToRPN / RemoveNumberUsed / UpdateTargets [1]
	(b)	TrainingGame [1]
	(c)	UserInput, Number [1]
	(d)	RemoveAt / Add [1]
	(e)	MaxTarget / MaxNumber / MaxNumberOfTargets [1]
15		Any 2 from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + - means 1 or more of preceding character/sequence [1] [0-9]+ means 1 or more digits from 0 to 9 [1] ([0-9]+[\\+\\-*\\/]) means 1 or more sequences of a number (operand) followed by an operator [1]
16		Because regular expressions do not support recursion. [1] A regular expression cannot track the opening and closing of brackets / a regular expression cannot maintain a "state". [1]
17		The precedence of the current operator is compared to the precedence of the operator on top of the Operators stack. [1] While it is greater, the top of the stack is popped onto UserInputInRPN output. [1] A final single check is carried out to ensure whether the top of the stack has the same precedence as the current operator. If it has, it is popped once more onto the UserInputInRPN output. [1]
18		Decomposition: The program is broken into smaller tasks, each handled by specific functions. Abstraction: The complexity of certain tasks is hidden behind clear, high-level functions. Encapsulation: The program is organized into distinct roles. [1]
19		Each element in the target list, n operations will be carried out. [1]

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Task 19

Coding

- Prompt to ask the user if they would like helper suggestions. [1 mark]
- Selection to branch program appropriately depending on their choice to accept helper suggestions.
- Suitable data structure to store text expressions and associated evaluations. [1 mark]
- Count-controlled loop to iterate through data structure storing text expressions and associated evaluations.
- Iterating through the NumbersAllowed list to test permutations. [1 mark]
- Rotating the NumbersAllowed list (or similar) to test different permutations of numbers.
- Appropriately displaying the combination of text expressions and associated evaluations on the screen.
- Use of recursion to try combinations. [1 mark]
- Only storing combinations for targets which have not already been identified. [1 mark]
- Correctly generating expressions which use division to ensure they evaluate to an integer. [1 mark]
- Testing expressions to ensure they correctly follow BIDMAS if needed (required for expressions built up step by step).
- Generate expressions which can use the four mathematical operators: + - / * [1 mark]
- Storage of expression with associated evaluation. [1 mark]

Teacher Notes:

This functionality could be completed using iteration. Marks should be awarded for techniques, but full marks should be awarded for recursion.

Because the expression is built up step by step, it must be tested at each stage because the impact of BIDMAS is not obvious until the end.

Example Solution

Modification of the PlayGame method:

```
While Not GameOver
    DisplayState(Targets, NumbersAllowed, Score)
    'CHANGE
    Console.WriteLine("Would you like helper suggestions? (Y/N)")
    Dim UserChoice As String = Console.ReadLine()
    If UserChoice = "Y" Then
        Dim Temp As New List(Of Integer)
        Dim PossibleSolutions As Dictionary(Of Integer, String) = GenerateExpressions(NumbersAllowed)
        For Each Item As Integer In NumbersAllowed
            Temp.Add(Item)
        Next
        For Integer = 0 To 4
            Dim TestSolutions As Dictionary(Of Integer, String) = GenerateExpressions(Temp)
            For Each Solution As KeyValuePair(Of Integer, String) In TestSolutions
                If Not PossibleSolutions.ContainsKey(Solution.Key) Then
                    PossibleSolutions.Add(Solution.Key, Solution.Value)
                End If
            Next
            Temp.Add(Temp(0))
        Next
    End If
```

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```

        Temp.RemoveAt(0)
    Next
    Console.WriteLine()
    For Each Solution As KeyValuePair(Of Integer, String) In PossibleSolutions
        Console.WriteLine($"{Solution.Key} can be calculated using the {Solution.Value}")
    Next
    Console.WriteLine()
End If
'END CHANGE

```

Creation of new GenerateEvaluations method (as associated helper method):

```

'CHANGE
Public Function GenerateEvaluations(NumbersAllowed As List(Of Integer), Targets As List(Of Integer), CurrentResult As Integer, PossibleExpressions As Dictionary(Of Integer, String)) As List(Of Integer)
    GenerateEvaluationsHelper(NumbersAllowed, Targets, 0, NumbersAllowed.Count, PossibleExpressions)
End Function

Private Sub GenerateEvaluationsHelper(NumbersAllowed As List(Of Integer), Targets As List(Of Integer), CurrentResult As Integer, PossibleExpressions As Dictionary(Of Integer, String), CurrentIndex As Integer)
    If CurrentIndex = NumbersAllowed.Count - 1 Then
        'Because the recursion calculates expressions step by step rather than all at once
        'the new code needs to test the end result using RPN evaluator to ensure it matches the target
        If Targets.Contains(EvaluateRPN(ConvertToRPN(CurrentExpression))) And AllNumbersUsed(NumbersAllowed, CurrentIndex) Then
            PossibleExpressions.Add(EvaluateRPN(ConvertToRPN(CurrentExpression)))
        End If
    End If
    Return
End Sub

Dim NextNumber As Integer = NumbersAllowed(Indices[CurrentIndex])
GenerateEvaluationsHelper(NumbersAllowed, Targets, CurrentResult + NextNumber, PossibleExpressions, CurrentIndex + 1)
If NextNumber <> 0 Then
    If (Convert.ToDouble(CurrentResult) / NextNumber) - Math.Truncate(Convert.ToDouble(CurrentResult) / NextNumber) = 0 Then
        GenerateEvaluationsHelper(NumbersAllowed, Targets, CurrentResult / NextNumber, PossibleExpressions, CurrentIndex + 1)
    End If
End Sub
GenerateEvaluationsHelper(NumbersAllowed, Targets, CurrentResult - NextNumber, PossibleExpressions, CurrentIndex + 1)
End Sub
'END CHANGE

```

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Testing

- Show the program displaying the suggested valid expressions for targets. [1 mark]

```
Enter y to play the training game, anything else to play a random
| | | | | |8|8|17|12|13|34|11|32|38|38|8|36|10|3
Numbers available: 1 7 6 10
Current score: 0
Would you like helper suggestions: Y/N
y
38 can be calculated using the expression: 1*7*6-10+6
17 can be calculated using the expression: 1*7+6+10-6
6 can be calculated using the expression: 1+7-6+10-6
Enter an expression: |
```



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Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Name

ZigZag Education supporting

A Level AQA Computer Science Paper

Summer 2025



Electronic Answer Document (EAD)

Instructions

- Enter your name in the box at the top of this page
- Answer **all** questions by entering your answers into this document
- Remember to **save** this document regularly
- Save and print this document and any additional pages

- Answer **all** questions
- The marks available for each question are shown in brackets

- You will need:
 - access to a computer
 - access to a printer
 - access to appropriate software
 - electronic copies of the required skeleton code
 - EAD (Electronic Answer Document)

Total marks:

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Exam-style Questions

Answer all questions. Remember to save this document

Q	Answer
1	(a)
	(b)
2	
3	(a)
	(b)
4	(a)
	(b)
5	(a)
	(b)
6	(a)
	(b)
7	
8	(a)
	(b)
9	(a)
	(b)
10	(a)
	(b)
11	(a)
	(b)
12	(a)
	(b)
13	
14	(a)
	(b)
	(c)
	(d)
	(e)
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Exam-style Programming Tasks

Answer all questions. Remember to save this document

Q	Answer
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