EXAM – TECHNICAL WRITING – COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Read the job descriptions and compare them by putting 5 items of information in the table.
- Compare the jobs and explain which one you think is better and why?

Computer Programmer	Web Developer
Job Description - Computer Programmer: A computer programmer writes the programs computers use to perform their functions. The programmer follows the specifications given to him or her by a computer software engineer **Employment Facts - Computer Programmer:** There were 426,000 computer programmers employed in 2008. **Educational Requirements - Computer Programmer:** To work as a computer programmer one must usually have a bachelor's degree, generally in computer science, mathematics, or information systems. Some computer programmers take coursework in computer science while earning their degrees in accounting, finance and business. Some of those working as computer programmers earn an associate's degree or certificate. **Other Requirements - Computer Programmer:** Programming skills and experience are highly valued in this field, particularly knowledge of object-oriented languages and tools such as C++ and Java. In addition, working computer programmers must constantly update their skills to keep up with changing technology. **Advancement Opportunities - Computer**	**Job Description - Web Developer:** A web developer tends to the technical aspects of creating websites. He or she creates applications for the web using software languages and tools. **Employment Facts - Web Developer:** There were 209,000 people working in this and related jobs in 2008. **Educational Requirements - Web Developer:** Many employers prefer to hire web developers who have earned a bachelor's degree in a computer-related field, but experience and certification may suffice for some jobs. **Other Requirements - Web Developer:** Web developers must keep up with continuously changing technology. **Job Outlook - Web Developer:** Job growth for web developers is expected to be much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. **Earnings - Web Developer:** Computer network, systems and database administrators, including web developers, earned a median annual salary of $77,010 in 2009.

Programmer:

After gaining experience, a computer programmer may be promoted to a managerial position. One with business experience may become a programmer-analyst or systems analyst. Specialized knowledge and experience with a language or operating system can lead to a computer programmer becoming a computer software engineer.

Job Outlook - Computer Programmer:

Employment of computer programmers, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts, is expected to decline slowly through 2018.

Earnings - Computer Programmer:

Median annual earnings of computer programmers were $70,940 in 2009.
Use the Salary Wizard at Salary.com to find out how much a Computer Programmer currently earns in your city.

A Day in a Computer Programmer's Life:

On a typical day a computer programmer's tasks might include:

- Correcting errors by making appropriate changes and rechecking the program to ensure that the desired results are produced.
- Conducting trial runs of programs and software applications to ensure that they will produce the desired information and that the instructions are correct.
- Compiling and writing documentation of program development and subsequent revisions, inserting comments in the coded instructions so others can understand the program.
- Writing, updating, and maintaining computer programs or software packages to handle specific jobs such as tracking

Use the Salary Wizard at Salary.com to find out how much a Web Developer currently earns in your city.

A Day in a Web Developer's Life:

On a typical day a web developer's tasks might include:

- identifying a website's users
- deciding what will be included on the website
- using specialized software to integrate databases and other information systems
- designing website pages

Sources:
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, **Occupational Outlook Handbook**, 2010-11 Edition, *Computer Network, Systems, and Database Administrators*, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos305.htm (visited March 23, 2011).
Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, **O*NET Online**, *Web Developer*, on the Internet at http://www.onetonline.org/link/details/15-1099.04 (visited March 23, 2011).

inventory, storing or retrieving data, or controlling other equipment. • Consulting with managerial, engineering, and technical personnel to clarify program intent, identify problems, and suggest changes. **Sources:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, **Occupational Outlook Handbook**, 2010-11 Edition, *Computer Software Engineers and Computer Programmers*, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos110.htm (visited November 1, 2010). Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, **O*NET Online**,*Computer Programmer*, on the Internet at http://online.onetcenter.org/link/details/15-1021.00 (visited November 9, 2010).	

TABLE

	Computer Programmer	Web Developer
Source: BONUS MARK (5%)		

COMPARING JOBS

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