Grade 13 A/L ICT · Lesson 10

10.5 Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

Syllabus 10.5. A **style sheet** controls how a page looks, keeping **content** (HTML) separate from **appearance** (CSS). A CSS **rule** has a **selector** and **declarations** property: value;. Selectors pick **elements**, an **id**, a **class** or a **group**. CSS can be inserted **inline**, **internally** in <style> or from an **external** .css file, and formats **backgrounds**, **text and fonts**, **links**, **lists** and **tables**.

1. CSS syntax

Anatomy of a CSS rule

```
h1 { color : navy ; }
```

selector | property | value | declaration ends ;

Comments: /* like this */ · several declarations go inside one { }

Selector, property and value

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2. Selectors and internal / inline CSS

HTML: CSS selectors, internal and inline styles

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>CSS demo</title>
  <style>
    /* element selector */
    p { color: black; font-family: Arial, sans-serif; }
    /* class selector */
    .tip { color: green; }
    /* id selector */
    #note { color: red; }
    /* group selector */
    h1, h2 { color: navy; text-align: center; }
    body { background-color: #eef6ff; }
    a:hover { color: orange; }
    ul { list-style-type: circle; }
    td { border: 1px solid gray; padding: 4px; }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>CSS demo</h1>
  <p>Plain paragraph</p>
  <p class="tip">Class tip</p>
  <p id="note" class="tip">Id beats class</p>
  <p class="tip" style="color: purple;">Inline beats all</p>
</body>
</html>
```

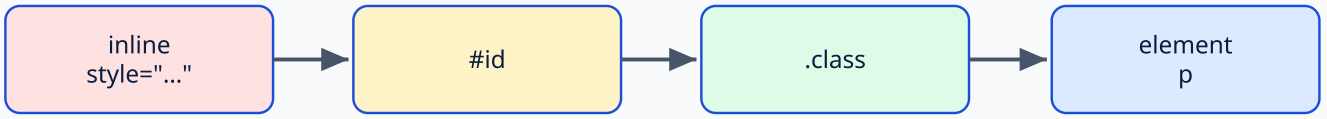
▶ **Result in the browser**



Selector	Example	Selects
Element	p { … }	Every p element
Class	.tip { … }	Elements with class="tip" (many allowed)
Id	#note { … }	The one element with id="note"
Group	h1, h2 { … }	Several selectors share one rule

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Which style wins? (highest first)



Same priority: the rule written later wins. External, internal and inline styles all join the cascade.

Priority when rules conflict

🧱 **Worked example: What colour is each paragraph in the demo?**
Plain paragraph: **black** (element rule). “Class tip”: **green** (class beats element). “Id beats class”: **red** – it has both class="tip" and id="note", and the id selector is stronger. “Inline beats all”: **purple** – an inline style attribute wins over the internal style sheet. The headings are **navy** from the group selector h1, h2.

3. External style sheet

HTML: Linking an external style sheet

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>External CSS</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Welcome</h1>
  <p>This page is styled by style.css.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

▶ **Result in the browser**

Welcome

This page is styled by style.css.

style.css

```
/* style.css — one file styles every page */
body { background-color: #fffbe6; font-family: Verdana, sans-serif; }
h1 { color: #b45309; font-size: 28px; }
p { font-size: 16px; line-height: 1.5; }
a:link { color: blue; }
a:visited { color: purple; }
table { border-collapse: collapse; }
th { background-color: #0b1d3f; color: white; }
```

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Method	How	Best use
Inline	style="color: purple;"	One element only
Internal	<style> in the head	One page
External	<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">	Many pages share one look

- Background: background-color, background-image: url("bg.png").
- Text and fonts: color, font-family, font-size, font-weight, text-align.
- Links: a:link, a:visited, a:hover, a:active.
- Lists: list-style-type (circle, square, decimal); tables: border, border-collapse, padding.
- Comments in CSS are written /* like this */.

💡 Use classes for styles you repeat and an id only for one unique element.

🚀 **Beyond the syllabus (2026 update)** *Not required for the exam – read for interest.* 2026 CSS includes Flexbox, Grid, variables (--main: navy) and media queries, so one page fits phones and desktops.

Key Words

CSS – Cascading Style Sheets that set the look of web pages.

Rule – Selector followed by declarations in braces.

Selector – Part of a rule that chooses the elements to style.

Declaration – Property and value pair ending in a semicolon.

Property – Feature to change such as color.

Class selector – Dot selector that styles every element with that class.

Id selector – Hash selector for one unique element.

Group selector – Comma-separated selectors that share a rule.

Inline style – CSS written in a style attribute of one element.

Internal style sheet – CSS in a style tag in the head.

External style sheet – Separate .css file linked to many pages.

Cascade – Rules that decide which style wins in a conflict.

Sample Q&A

1. Why use CSS?

Answer: Separate content from appearance; one change styles many pages.

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2. Class vs id selector?

> **Answer:** Class (.name) for many elements; id (#name) for one.

3. Colour of the id="note" paragraph?

> **Answer:** Red.

4. Three ways to insert CSS?

> **Answer:** Inline, internal, external.

5. How is an external sheet linked?

> **Answer:** <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css"> in the head.

6. How are CSS comments written?

> **Answer:** /* comment */.

MCQ

1. In h1 { color: navy; } the selector is

A. h1
B. ;
C. navy
D. color
E. { }

2. A class selector starts with

A. a dot (.)
B. an at sign (@)
C. a comma (,)
D. a hash (#)
E. a colon (:)

3. An id selector starts with

A. a star (*)
B. a hash (#)
C. a colon (:)
D. a dot (.)
E. a slash (/)

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4. In the demo the id="note" paragraph is

A. green
B. purple
C. black
D. navy
E. red

5. In the demo the paragraph with an inline style is

A. navy
B. purple
C. green
D. black
E. red

6. h1, h2 { color: navy; } uses a

A. group selector
B. class selector
C. pseudo-class only
D. id selector
E. inline style

7. One .css file shared by many pages is

A. a bookmark
B. an external style sheet
C. an internal style sheet
D. a comment
E. an inline style

8. The colour of a link under the mouse is set with

A. a:link
B. a.mouse
C. a:hover
D. a:first
E. a:visited

9. Which term means: “Cascading Style Sheets that set the look of web pages”?

A. Selector
B. External style sheet
C. Class selector
D. CSS
E. Group selector

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10. Which term means: “Selector followed by declarations in braces”?

A. Inline style
B. Cascade
C. Rule
D. Id selector
E. Declaration

11. Which term means: “Part of a rule that chooses the elements to style”?

A. Internal style sheet
B. Property
C. Group selector
D. Selector
E. CSS

12. Which term means: “Property and value pair ending in a semicolon”?

A. Class selector
B. Declaration
C. External style sheet
D. Inline style
E. Rule

13. Which term means: “Feature to change such as color”?

A. Id selector
B. Selector
C. Cascade
D. Property
E. Internal style sheet

14. Which term means: “Dot selector that styles every element with that class”?

A. Declaration
B. Group selector
C. External style sheet
D. CSS
E. Class selector

15. Which term means: “Hash selector for one unique element”?

A. Property
B. Cascade
C. Id selector
D. Rule
E. Inline style

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16. Which term means: “Comma-separated selectors that share a rule”?

A. Selector
B. Class selector
C. Group selector
D. Internal style sheet
E. CSS

17. Which term means: “CSS written in a style attribute of one element”?

A. Rule
B. Declaration
C. Id selector
D. External style sheet
E. Inline style

18. Which term means: “CSS in a style tag in the head”?

A. Internal style sheet
B. Cascade
C. Selector
D. Group selector
E. Property

19. Which term means: “Separate .css file linked to many pages”?

A. Declaration
B. Inline style
C. CSS
D. Class selector
E. External style sheet

20. Which term means: “Rules that decide which style wins in a conflict”?

A. Rule
B. Property
C. Id selector
D. Cascade
E. Internal style sheet

Structured Questions

1. Explain the parts of a CSS rule. *(5 marks)*

> Selector; braces; property; value; semicolon.

2. Compare element, class, id and group selectors with examples. *(4 marks)*

> p; .tip; #note; h1, h2.

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3. Explain inline, internal and external CSS and when to use each. *(4 marks)*

> style attribute; style tag; link file; uses.

4. State the colour of each paragraph in the demo and explain. *(4 marks)*

> black; green; red (id); purple (inline).

5. Write CSS to style links, a list and a table. *(3 marks)*

> a:link/hover; ul list-style-type; table border-collapse, td padding.

Summary

- CSS separates appearance from content.
- A rule is selector { property: value; }.
- Element, class, id and group selectors.
- Inline, internal and external CSS.
- Inline > id > class > element.

MCQ answer key – 10.5

1. **A** – h1.
2. **A** – Dot.
3. **B** – Hash.
4. **E** – Id beats class.
5. **B** – Inline wins.
6. **A** – Group.
7. **B** – External.
8. **C** – Hover.
9. **D** – CSS – Cascading Style Sheets that set the look of web pages.
10. **C** – Rule – Selector followed by declarations in braces.
11. **D** – Selector – Part of a rule that chooses the elements to style.
12. **B** – Declaration – Property and value pair ending in a semicolon.
13. **D** – Property – Feature to change such as color.
14. **E** – Class selector – Dot selector that styles every element with that class.
15. **C** – Id selector – Hash selector for one unique element.
16. **C** – Group selector – Comma-separated selectors that share a rule.
17. **E** – Inline style – CSS written in a style attribute of one element.
18. **A** – Internal style sheet – CSS in a style tag in the head.
19. **E** – External style sheet – Separate .css file linked to many pages.
20. **D** – Cascade – Rules that decide which style wins in a conflict.

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