The basics of HTML

Web pages are made from commands called tags that describe how the page should be displayed in the browser. Each tag is enclosed in chevrons: <>. There is often an opening tag, the start of the command and a closing tag, the end of the command. The end of the command is signified by: /

Convention states that tags should be in lowercase. String identifiers can use single or double quotes.

# Web page structure

All web pages have the basic structure of:

<html> Indicates the language used: the page is hypertext mark-up language.

<head> Data about the page is placed in the head section. This is known as meta-data.

</head>

<body> The content of the page is placed in the body section.

</body> Note how each section is ended with a corresponding closing tag.

</html>

# Title bar

To give the web page a title in the bar at the top of the browser, use a TITLE tag in the head section:

<title>Put the title you want to appear in the title bar here</title>

# Headings

To put a heading on the page, use h tags in the body section:

<h1>A top level heading</h1>

<h2>A sub heading</h2>

<h3>A sub-sub heading</h3>

# Fonts, colours and formatting of text

This can be done using in-page styles with the style attribute inside the opening tag.

For example, if you wanted to make a heading blue, you could use the style attribute like this:

<h1 style="color:blue; ">This is a title in blue</h1>

# Using paragraphs for text

Text is usually enclosed in paragraph tags: <p> and </p>. Each paragraph automatically has a blank line between each one, which is the standard way of presenting paragraphs on a web page.

# Images

Images must be saved in a separate file in GIF, JPEG or PNG format. They are then linked into the page using the <img> tag. There is no closing tag.

<img src="the filename of the file goes here">

There are additional attributes for the image tag to specify alternative text for the blind, height and width attributes. E.g.

<img src="image.jpg" alt="This is a picture of a... " height="300px" width="400px">

# Hyperlinks

A link to another page requires an anchor tag: <a> and a hyperlink reference attribute.

<a href="the filename of the page to link to goes here">The words the user actually clicks here</a>

# Bullet points (unordered lists)

Bullet lists require two tags. One to signify the start and end of unordered list <ul>, and one for each list item <li>. It is good practice to indent list items.

<ul>

 <li>Bullet point one</li>

 <li>Bullet point two</li>

 <li>Bullet point three</li>

</ul>

# Numbered points (ordered lists)

Numbered lists require two tags. One to signify the start and end of the ordered list <ol>, and one for each list item <li>. It is good practice to indent list items.

<ol>

 <li>Point one</li>

 <li>Point two</li>

 <li>Point three</li>

</ol>

# Other tags

There are many other tags, but these are the basic ones you need to know for exams. In addition, for other concepts you need to understand you will need to know:

<div> Explained in the Basics of CSS guide

<form> Explained in the Basics of HTML forms guide

<input> Explained in the Basics of HTML forms guide

<script> Explained in the Basics of Javascript guide

No other knowledge of HTML is necessary.