

21.2 Create a web page

Syllabus 2026 - 2028

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Use HTML in the content layer: head section (title, external stylesheets, metatags, default target), body section, tables, objects, div, text tags, classes, styles, lists, bookmarks and hyperlinks
- Know and understand: purpose of the head and body, why tables are used, metatags, hyperlinks, bookmarks, anchors, and relative and absolute file paths

Structure of an HTML page

An HTML page has two main sections. The **head** holds information about the page that is not displayed in the main window. The **body** holds everything the user sees: text, images, tables, video and links.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>My School</title>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css">
  <base target="_blank">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Welcome</h1>
  <p>This is the body.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

The head section

Item	Code	Purpose
Page title	<title>My School</title>	Text shown in the browser tab or title bar. Also used when the page is bookmarked and by search engines.
External stylesheet	<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css">	Attaches a CSS file. Use a relative file path. Stylesheets are applied in the order they are attached.
Charset	<meta charset="UTF-8">	Defines the character set so that symbols and letters display correctly.
Description	<meta name="description" content="School website">	Short summary of the page. Shown by search engines under the page link.
Keywords	<meta name="keywords" content="school, ICT, Eswatini">	Words that search engines can use to match the page to a search.
Author	<meta name="author" content="Q Dlamini">	Names the person who created the page.
Viewport	<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">	Makes the page display correctly on all devices, such as phones and tablets.
Default target	<base target="_blank">	Sets the window where every link opens unless a link says otherwise.

Text tags and lists

Tag	Use
<code><h1> <h2> <h3></code>	Headings, from the largest (h1) to smaller levels.
<code><p></code>	A paragraph of text.
<code> with </code>	Unordered (bulleted) list. Each item is inside <code></code> .
<code> with </code>	Ordered (numbered) list.
<code>, <i></code>	Bold and italic text.

```

<ul>
  <li>Word</li>
  <li>Excel</li>
</ul>
<ol style="list-style-type: upper-roman;">
  <li>First</li>
  <li>Second</li>
</ol>

```

Tables

Tables are used to structure elements, such as text and images, in rows and columns so that they line up on the page. A table uses `<table>`, `<tr>` (table row), `<th>` (table header) and `<td>` (table data).

```

<table border="1" width="80%">
  <tr>
    <th>Name</th>
    <th colspan="2">Marks</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td rowspan="2" width="150px">Thabo</td>
    <td>80</td>
    <td>75</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>90</td>
    <td>85</td>
  </tr>
</table>

```

Attribute	Effect
<code>colspan="2"</code>	A cell stretches across 2 columns.
<code>rowspan="2"</code>	A cell stretches down 2 rows.
<code>width="80%"</code> or <code>width="300px"</code>	Sets the table or cell size as a percentage of the window or in pixels. Percentages adjust to different screens.
<code>height</code>	Sets the height in pixels or %.
<code>style="..."</code>	Applies styles such as background colour, borders and alignment.

Inserting objects

Object	Code and notes
Image	<pre></pre> Set width and height in pixels or %. Keep the aspect ratio by changing only one dimension or scaling both equally. The alt text is shown if the image cannot load and is read by screen readers.
Sound	<pre><audio src="sound/song.mp3" controls autoplay></audio></pre> The controls attribute displays play and pause controls. Leave it out to remove the controls. autoplay starts it automatically.

Object	Code and notes
Video	<pre><video src="video/clip.mp4" width="400" height="300" controls autoplay></video></pre> Same attributes as audio. Width and height set the size.

The div tag, classes and styles

The `<div>` tag groups elements into a block so that a style or class can be applied to all of them. A **class** is a named style defined in CSS and applied with the class attribute. A **style** attribute applies formatting to one element only.

```
<div class="notice">
  <h2>Notice</h2>
  <p style="color: red;">School closes at 14:00.</p>
</div>
```

Bookmarks and hyperlinks

A **hyperlink** is text or an image that takes the user to another place when clicked. The **anchor** tag (`<a>`) creates it. A **bookmark** is a marked position within a page, created by giving an element an **id** attribute. A link then jumps to it using `#` and the id.

```
<h2 id="contact">Contact us</h2>                                <!-- the bookmark -->

<a href="#contact">Go to contact</a>                             <!-- same page -->
<a href="pages/about.html">About us</a>                         <!-- local page -->
<a href="https://www.example.com">Website</a>                  <!-- website URL -->
<a href="mailto:info@school.sz">Email us</a>                   <!-- send mail -->
<a href="about.html" target="_blank">New window</a>            <!-- new window -->
<a href="about.html" target="_self">Same window</a>            <!-- same window -->
<a href="about.html" target="info">Named window</a>            <!-- window named info -->
<a href="about.html"></a>    <!-- image link -->
```

Relative and absolute file paths

Type	Example	Meaning
Relative path	images/logo.png	Gives the location of a file starting from the page that uses it. It still works if the whole folder is moved or uploaded.
Absolute path	C:\Users\Q\Site\images\logo.png https://www.example.com/logo.png	Gives the full location, including the drive or domain.

Absolute file paths must not be used for links to locally saved pages and objects. They point to a fixed place on one computer. When the site is moved to another computer or a web server, that drive and folder do not exist, so the link or image is broken. Relative paths keep working because the files keep the same positions in relation to each other.

EXAM TIP

Remember: a bookmark needs two parts, an element with an id and a link beginning with `#`. In a question about file paths, the answer is 'the absolute path will not exist on another computer', not just 'it is wrong'.

Key terms

Term	Meaning
Head	The section holding the title, stylesheet links and metatags.
Body	The section holding the content shown in the browser window.
Metatag	A tag in the head that gives information about the page, such as charset, keywords, author, description or viewport.
Hyperlink	Text or an image that takes the user to another page, a bookmark, a website or an email address.
Anchor (a tag)	The tag used to create hyperlinks and bookmarks.
Bookmark	A marked place on a page, created with an id attribute.
Relative path	A file location given from the position of the current page.
Absolute path	A full file location including the drive or domain.