

Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2010

Applied GCE

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Information and Communication Technology (6951)

Paper 01 - The Information Age

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General Comments

This was the first time the work was assessed on the updated version of the specification.

The advice contained in previous reports was followed by a number of centres. Although there was an increase in the number of centres using inappropriate software or approaches to this unit.

The majority of work seen was appropriate and gave the candidates good opportunities to meet the requirements of the specification. Although of the e-portfolios moderated, very few mentioned the requirement for the content to be read in 100 years time.

The marking by centres is becoming more accurate and good examples were seen at the higher end of the mark range.

Unfortunately there were still several examples of work submitted in inappropriate file formats, such as PowerPoint presentations which had not been converted to html format, or long, document-style PDF files with few links for e-book presentations. This type of approach does not produce an e-book in line with the specification.

This series also saw a number of e-books submitted in exe format; these are not acceptable and will be rejected in future assessment windows. The specification states that the e-book will be available to people using world wide web, and so they must be accessible using a web browser.

Most assessors made appropriate comments on the e-record sheets which were helpful, and showed how the marks were awarded.

QWC

This was assessed for the first time under the updated specification and the majority of centres commented on QWC on the e-sheet and used the criteria correctly. However some misunderstanding was evident in a few cases.

The rules for QWC are as follows:

- The content of the work is marked, identifying the band and the mark that the work is worth.
- The QWC is assessed and the mark is then adjusted, within the band, to give a final mark.
- The content mark cannot be increased on the basis of QWC.
- If the content mark awarded is at the bottom of a band, the student's mark cannot be reduced further.
- QWC should not be assessed elsewhere in the unit.

Centre Administration

Candidates need to supply explicit evidence to support their achievement of the criteria in the various marking grids. It is easier to confirm marks if the evidence is easy to find and supplied in an explicit form. Assessors must use the e-sheets as an opportunity to explain why they have awarded marks, there are two advantages to this for the centre. If the moderator can see why and where marks are awarded it is easier to agree with the centre marks, secondly if the centre marks cannot be agreed then the moderator can give better guidance to help future assessment.

A number of centres still do not meet deadlines for submitting work to the moderators. The deadlines are published in advance and must be adhered to unless special permission has been obtained in advance from Edexcel. Permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Centres who miss the deadline risk having the results delayed or the candidates recorded as absent. Each unit must be on a separate CD, even if sent to the same moderator.

Most samples were correctly submitted with folders clearly labelled with centre numbers, candidate number and first 2 letters of surname and first of Christian name. It would help if the e-record sheet also used this naming convention is the same

The centre assessor should use the e-record as an opportunity to help the moderator find the evidence required to agree the marks given. The comments by centres often contained only 1 line comments, and in other cases no comments at all were provided.

Strand A - Online Services

A good range of marks were awarded for this section with some candidates scoring full marks here.

A good number of candidates made use of the additions to the specification with Facebook and other social networking sites proving popular. Almost all candidates now cover 5 services.

Stronger candidates produced work in required depth of coverage of each of the services, giving good examples and very detailed descriptions of services supported by good examples. Weaker candidates still tend to simply evaluate websites for this strand, rather than the services themselves.

QWC levels generally matched the mark band standard in which the evidence was placed.

Strand B - Life in the Information Age

In most cases, five different aspects were present.

The stronger candidates are able to see the difference between this strand and the previous one, as their work covered how aspects of peoples lives have been changed by the use of information technology. Most candidates find it easy to describe how they are using the technology in their own life style, however only the strongest candidates are able to use good examples of how the lives of others are affected.

It is expected in this section that candidates will describe how the technology affects personal and working life styles. However weaker candidates still describe the technology again or review the technology with little or no reference to the impact on life. Candidates could be encouraged to summarise and comment on the overall impact of ICT on life in the Information Age. This is essential to access the higher mark ranges

It is also essential that in this section candidates use research from a range of sources and not just the internet as is often the case.

Strand C - Digital Divide

The Digital Divide was not as well covered as the previous two strands by the majority of candidates. The causes of the divide were poorly described as were the impact of and attempts to narrow the gap.

Candidates often demonstrated limited research. They often produced only a general discussion of the divide with very little specific detail at the 3 expected levels. The measures taken to bridge the gap were often only briefly considered and restricted in the depth of analysis.

There was evidence that some centres had supplied a set of images and text that candidates selected from and created very similar evidence.

Strand D - The e-book

Most candidates had used appropriate software, although there was an increase in centres using software that was not appropriate for an e-book. In some extreme cases it was not possible to moderate the work. The specification requires an e-book that can be read in a browser. The best approach is to use web authoring software, or other software that can create pages in html.

Very few candidates addressed the awareness of audience and purpose and did not demonstrate that the e-book was to be looked at in 100 years time. A simple introduction or title page would make it clear that they had understood the brief.

Centres are using a range of techniques to make the e-book user friendly, and a range of techniques were used to either avoid scrolling or to minimise the effect of it. The most important thing is that the user is always able to navigate around the e-book and that vital links are not lost when the page scrolls. The use of frames is one way of achieving this.

Standard ways of working were not always observed in that filenames were not meaningful and external assessors had difficulty in finding the start of the e-book.

Strand E - Components and Structure

Whilst some products demonstrated a well constructed structure, there were still examples of poor colour schemes. Some candidates included inappropriate multimedia, for example in the form of un-necessary animated gif files

Candidates must use an adequate range of appropriate components to be awarded marks at the top end of the range. It is not sufficient to simply include components that are not in some way related to the page being looked at.

Separate evidence of testing is still often provided in the form of test plans and screen dumps. As stated in previous examiner reports this is not necessary. Testing is demonstrated by the fact that a fully function e-book had been produced.

Strand F - Evaluation

Most candidates managed to make brief evaluative comments about their e-book and their own performance. Candidates solicited and recorded feedback comments often in the form of questionnaires. The inclusion of completed questionnaires alone does not provide evidence that they have acted on or analysed the feedback.

Standard Ways of Working

In most cases the only evidence that the moderators had for this aspect was the bibliography ,file structures and names used by the candidates. In some cases it was difficult to locate the e-book or e-portfolios of candidates as these were often not well named.

Bibliographies are the main source of evidence to support the range of sources of information used by the candidate; too many candidates still give "Goole" or "Yahoo" and other search engines as the source of the information when clearly the source was a website found using them. Many candidates only quoted web sites. The specification requires a wide range of different sources to used for strands (b) and (c).

Unit Results

Grade	Maximum Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N
Boundary Mark	60	48	42	36	30	25	20
Max Uniform Mark	100	80	70	60	50	40	0-39

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-39.

Note

Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject.

Qualification Results

Advanced Subsidiary (Single Award)

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Qualification Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum Uniform Mark = 300	240	210	180	150	120

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-119.

Advanced GCE (Single Award)

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Qualification Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum Uniform Mark = 600	480	420	360	300	240

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-239.

Advanced Subsidiary (Double Award)

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Qualification Grade	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE
Maximum Uniform Mark = 600	480	450	420	390	360	330	300	270	240

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade EE will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-239.

Advanced GCE with Advanced Subsidiary (Additional)

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Qualification Grade	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE
Maximum Uniform Mark = 900	720	690	630	600	540	510	450	420	360

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade EE will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-359.

Advanced GCE (Double Award)

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Qualification Grade	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE
Maximum Uniform Mark = 1200	960	900	840	780	720	660	600	540	480

Candidates who do not achieve the standard required for a grade EE will receive a uniform mark in the range of 0-479

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