Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2010

Applied GCE

Information and Communication Technology (6964)

Paper 01 - Programming

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General Comments

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

There were very few entries for this unit in this window. Most centres submitted the sample required on one disk and included the esheets and candidate authentication sheets all labelled according to the correct naming conventions as detailed in the document "Moderation of ePortfolios: Guidance for Centres". Many candidates' eportfolios were in the correct file formats, within the stated file size of 25 MB and most contained a clear index file which started the eportfolio. Many assessors are giving clear feedback in the esheets explaining the assessment decisions made and marks awarded.

The majority of centres were assessing to National Standards with sound assessment decisions made across the board. Centres/Assessors clearly understand what is required and how to apply the mark bands for this unit.

There were very few instances of Centres adopting a very structured approach with all candidates producing very similar evidence this window which is in keeping with the requirements of the specification.

However, past comments made regarding the inclusion of a full listing of the program and a working exe version still are not being taken on board by all. It is absolutely essential that the moderators get both. Without them it is difficult for the moderator to follow the structure of the code. Please note that this unit is the only one were exe files are accepted.

The majority of candidates had included a copy of the functional specification which really did make moderation easier as the moderators had something to compare the program against.

QWC
This was assessed for the first time under the updated specification, 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.

Strand A

Few candidates included what they had done here as opposed to what they were going to do. However, it is worthwhile reiterating that screenshots of the final system are not design and that it is the level of detail within the design that leads to the mark band placement. For the top of the higher mark bands the design needs to be detailed with, at mark band two, explanations of how input data will be validated and at mark band three identification of the processing to be carried out in each event. Please take note of the comments given in strand B regarding programs that are of a simplistic nature.

Strand B

There were very few instances of simplistic programs being included this window and some very good examples of systems that could well be classed as 'professional level'. However, it must be pointed out once again that simplistic programs that appear to meet the strand criterion if a 'tick box' approach is used are not acceptable. Programs have to be of appropriate complexity to open up all of the mark bands. Very simple programs will limit the marks available in strands A to D to mark band 1.

Standard ways of working are important in this strand. With regards to programming code this includes good use of object names, indentation and comments clearly explaining the purpose of the code. There was some excellent, clear evidence of this but not across the board and it is very important.

Strand C

Please see comment given in strand B with regards to programs of a simplistic nature. On the whole evidence for this strand was good with some very detailed test plans and results including changes made etc.

Strand D

Please see comment given in strand B with regards to programs of a simplistic nature. Candidates must also include two separate documents ie technical and user guide. It is not appropriate for both documents to be in one file.

Strand E

There was very little evidence of candidates being placed in too high a mark band in this strand in this moderation window. Where the higher marks had been awarded most candidates had included an evaluation that was well rounded and included an evaluation of the quality of the user and technical documentation and the efficiency of the final program including data structures.

Unit Results

Grade	Maximum Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N
Boundary Mark	60	46	40	34	28	23	18
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 Subsidary (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 Subsidary (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 Subsidary (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