



## **General Certificate of Education**

# **Information and Communication Technology 2520**

## **Unit 1      Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World**

# **Report on the Examination**

*2009 examination – June series*

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## **General Comments**

It was pleasing that many centres ensured their candidates' Sample Work was between 10 and 20 pages and was attached to the script with just one treasury tag, thus enabling candidates and examiners to find the relevant work with ease.

There were some issues with centres allowing candidates to submit:

- many more than the recommended 20 pages
- two separate complete pieces of Sample Work (i.e. duplicate evidence for each item required)
- sections on design, implementation and evaluation as well as the required sample work.

All of the above disadvantaged candidates because they had too much to read through to find the relevant work.

It was pleasing to see that most candidates attempted all questions on the examination paper.

Centres are reminded to read this report in conjunction with the section in the specification where the expectations of candidates performing at grade A and E is described (Appendix A, pages 33 to 35).

### **Question 1**

This question was well answered by the majority of candidates.

### **Question 2**

Many candidates answered this question well. A good answer was 'The questions I would ask myself would be does the solution do what it is supposed to do, does it do it in the way it is supposed to, is the solution effective and, if not, what would make the solution effective.'

### **Question 3**

This question was reasonably well answered with the majority of candidates gaining at least 2 or 3 marks of the 4 available. Unfortunately some candidates failed to answer the question asked, i.e. 'what measures should **you** take to protect your health when using a computer?'

Better candidates related their answers to what they would have done e.g. 'I would adjust the height of my workstation chair so that my eyes would be level with the top of the computer's screen'.

Candidates could have gained full marks by giving four measures or by giving two measures with an explanation of each.

### **Question 4**

Most candidates gained at least half marks and better candidates did show a good understanding of validation and verification. Some candidates did not gain high marks for this question because they were unable to give appropriate examples.

**Questions 5(a) and 5(b)**

Many candidates showed their understanding of the Sample Work and gained high marks in parts (a) and (b). Some candidates did not gain high marks for this question because they either did not annotate the page number in the answer booklet, or they failed to annotate their Sample Work with the question number. Most candidates were able to explain what is meant by a client, a user and an audience and were able to refer to their Sample Work to give examples.

**Question 5(c)**

The full range of marks was awarded for this question.

**Question 5(d)**

Many candidates were able to relate how the user's skills would be taken into account when designing a solution and gained high marks. Some candidates had not considered their user's skills in the Sample Work. Some candidates gave answers that did not relate to the skills required to use the proposed solution, which did not gain marks.

**Question 5(e)**

Many candidates were able to show their understanding of testing client requirements by describing one requirement that they had tested and gaining two marks.

**Question 5(f)**

Some candidates answered this question very well, showing a good understanding of the testing that they had carried out. These candidates did go through the process of describing the tests relating to one requirement and gained full marks.

Conversely, some candidates answered this in very general terms, some by listing several different tests that they had performed for different requirements, when the question stipulated testing relating to **one** client requirement.

**Question 6(a)**

This question was frequently well answered, most candidates gained two marks.

**Question 6(b)**

Better candidates gave good answers detailing many improvements and justifying why they would make them. Some candidates only gave a list of improvements and therefore could not gain full marks. Weaker candidates' answers were vague and not specific enough to the given web page to gain credit.

**Question 6(c)**

Most candidates scored two marks on this question.

### **Question 7**

On the whole candidates wrote very good answers to this question without veering from the topic concerned, showing a good knowledge and understanding of hardware, software and communication devices and relating that to the context of the question. Weaker candidates failed to gain many marks, as they just gave lists of hardware and did not relate the answer to the context of the question.

The standard of English seen in some answers could make it difficult for the meaning to be understood. Candidates should be reminded that their quality of written communication is an integral part of the assessment of the answer to this question.

Centres are reminded that the instructions to candidates on the front cover of the examination paper stated that 'Question 7 should be answered in continuous prose. In this question you will be marked on your ability to: use good English, organise information clearly and use specialist vocabulary where appropriate'.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.