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ICT FOUNDATION LEVEL

General comments

Again the scheme has gone from strength to strength, with entries rising from 5555 in 2002-3 to 8403 in 2003-4. The award was available in English, Spanish and Greek. The total number of entries in English showed a 58% increase and was up to 6332, of which 1125 entries were at Foundation Level, 2475 were at Standard Level and 912 at Advanced Level. This indicates a significant increase in numbers at all levels. The entries in Greek have shown an increase on the previous year, with a total of 1186 entries during this year.

This level comprised a Core module and five enhancement modules.

Foundation level English entries 2003-2004
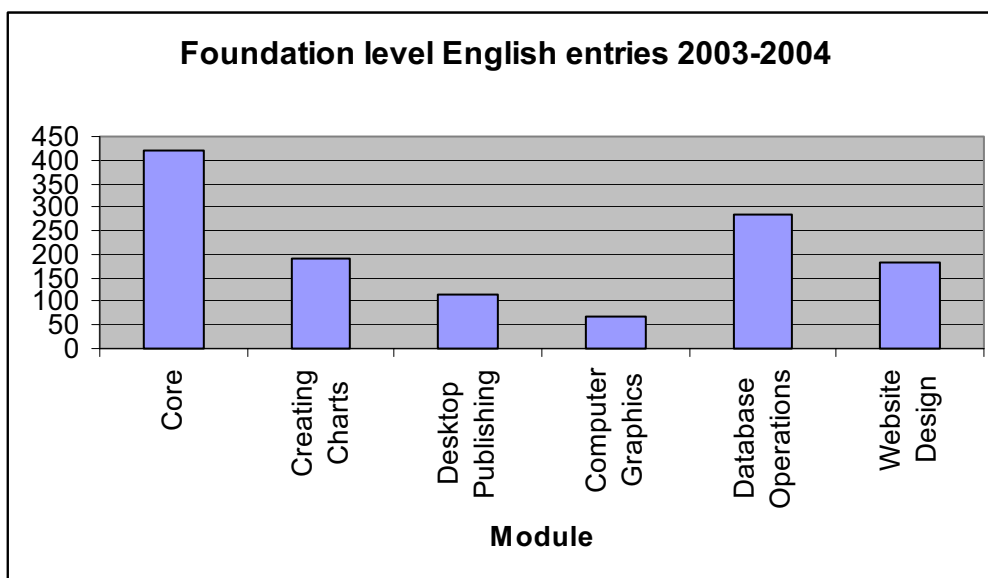
The overall pass rate for these modules was slightly improved upon last year with candidates showing a good understanding of the subject knowledge and practical skills. There was a significant improvement in the quality of work received from Centres in all modules.

Paper 5181
Core

The overall standard of entries for this module was excellent. The most common errors found this year included:

- The failure to produce formulae printouts from the spreadsheet. The most common package used was Excel and many candidates did not know how to use Tools, Options and tick the Formulas box prior to printing.

- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts are without these.

- The loss of data integrity during sorts. Many candidates failed to highlight all the data prior to sorting by a specified field which meant that the data became irrelevant to the task in hand.

Paper 5182

Creating Charts

The overall standard of entries for this module was excellent. The most common errors included:

- Careless errors in the labelling of the charts or axis, sometimes where candidates are allowing the software (wizards) to generate the charts, without consideration of the requirements of the question paper.

- Selecting the wrong data series, especially when the data is not in adjacent rows or columns.

Paper 5183

Desktop Publishing

This was a great improvement from last year. The most common errors included:

- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts, are without these.

- The failure to align text as specified.

- The failure to place and resize graphics as specified.

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).

- Page breaks placed instead of column breaks.

- The failure to set the page orientation as specified.

- The failure to set up all four margins as specified.

Paper 5184

Computer Graphics

The most common errors included:

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).

- The failure to copy, manipulate and paste elements of the image, several candidates redrew and then resized some images rather than copying and pasting as instructed on the question paper.

Paper 5185

Database Operations

There were few errors found in this module. Infrequent errors found within this module included:

- The failure to insert record/s into the database.

- The failure to use the given fieldnames when importing the .csv file into the database software.

- The failure to select the correct search criteria.

- The failure to sort the required data as specified.

- The failure to edit the data as specified in the question paper.

- The failure to show all fields, or only specified fields in the printouts as required by the particular question.

Paper 5186

Website Design

The high standards set last year were maintained by this year's entries. The most common errors included:

- The failure to complete the paper in the allocated time.

- The failure to print out the html source code.

- The failure to direct the routing for graphics images to the correct place, leaving all the web pages devoid of graphics.

- The failure to creating the hyperlinks either internally or to the Hothouse website.

- The failure to set an anchor and hyperlink to link back to the top of the page as specified in the question paper.