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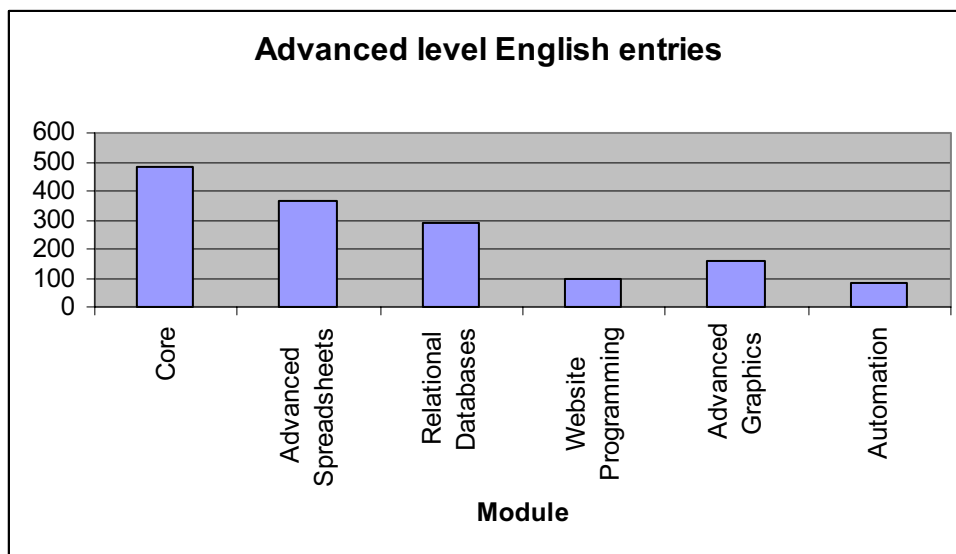


ICT ADVANCED LEVEL

General comments

Again the scheme has shown a steady increase in entries with 8403 in 2003-4 and 8480 in 2004-5. The award was available in English, Spanish and Greek. The total number of entries in English showed a 6% increase and was up to 6720, of which 1471 entries were at Foundation Level, 3771 were at Standard Level and 1478 at Advanced Level. This indicates a significant increase in numbers at all levels. The entries in Spanish have shown an increase on the previous year, with a total of 624 entries during this year.

This level comprised a Core module and five enhancement modules.



There overall pass rate for these modules was slightly improved on those from last year.

Paper 5201

Core

This module continues to be popular. The most common error was:

- The failure to submit all the required printouts, particularly the two different copies of the document production section. A significant number of candidates completed and printed the final version of the document but failed to submit the intermediate printout of their work.

Other errors included:

- Errors in searching and sorting the database extract (particularly in maintaining the data integrity).
- Errors in page layout with the failure to set margins or column widths as specified.
- The failure to resize the imported graphic or to text wrap around this graphic.
- 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.
- Errors inserting new text into a numbered list and renumbering as specified in the question paper.

Paper 5202
Advanced Spreadsheets

The majority of entries for this module were either very good or contained quite a number of mistakes. The most common errors included:

- Candidates did not use named cells or named ranges.
- Candidates who could not produce formulae printouts of their work.
- The failure to manipulate strings within the spreadsheet.
- The failure to correctly construct the pivot table or to construct it based upon the wrong data.
- Candidates who calculated responses using manual or external devices/software and entered values rather than formulae.
- Column widths too narrow to enable either the value or all of the label and/or formulae to be viewed.
- The failure to format cells as specified.

Paper 5205
Relational Databases

There was an improvement in the quality of work submitted for this module. The most common error was:

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

Other errors included:

- The failure to select the data using a wildcard.
- The failure to produce grouped reports, or if produced they were grouped on the wrong fields.
- The failure to sort database reports by the required fields. On some occasions the candidates confused ascending and descending order and on others got the sort priorities in the wrong order.
- The failure to produce calculated fields and controls on an Access report.
- Cross-tab queries (pivot tables) were not completed correctly, usually because the wrong source data was selected.

Paper 5206
Website Programming

This module was poorly completed by many candidates. Approximately two thirds of the entries finished the paper, whilst many candidates could design the web site front end, few managed to correctly validate the data entry and write the data into a data file. The majority of those who were successful wrote directly in SQL. Other errors included:

- The failure to place radio buttons or a check box on the input form.
- The failure to perform a length check on the data entered onto the form.

Paper 5207
Graphics

The most significant error in the vast majority of candidates who did not reach the required standards was the failure to colour mask within a layer. Another significant reason for failure (for the third successive year) was the inability to print in colour. This module must be printed in colour to enable the Examiner to mark the script. As such features as colour sampling, brightness, contrast, adjustment of primary colours within an RGB spectrum, hue, density, gradation and saturation are likely to be tested, then the evidence of many of these changes can only be viewed in colour.

Paper 5208
Automation

The quality of candidates' work for this module was in line with the standards from last year. The most common error was:

- The failure to complete the paper in the time allocated, or to print out all of the required printouts.

Other common errors included:

- The inability to evidence that the automation was present in the mail merged document (by printing out the document with the merge codes).
- The lack of automation of the documents using commands like FILLIN and conditional operators like SKIPIF using these commands at run time.
- The inability to use or print an automated menu (either by printing out the VB, macros, hyperlinks or other methods of routing).