



# Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level  
In Information Technology  
(WIT11) Paper 01

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This was the first year of examination for **WIT11**.

The paper started with two multiple choice questions 1a(i) and 1a(ii), and the great majority of candidates were able to answer them correctly.

1b(i) was also answered well.

1b(ii) was less well answered than expected as many candidates gave answers about functions of an operating system, given in the stem, rather than functions of firmware.

1c(i) was about features of a smart TV to assist people with visual impairment. Although there were a lot of good answers, too many candidates responded with statements that would apply to a computer monitor, rather than a TV set.

1c(ii) was rather poorly answered, with the majority of candidates giving generic information about accessibility, rather than explaining why a manufacturer would include accessibility features.

2a. Around half of the candidates failed to score on this question, making no mention of DNS or how it works. Those who did mention DNS usually scored more than one mark.

2b. There was a lot of confusion here about the terms static and dynamic as applied to web pages. Far too many candidates answered in terms of static and dynamic IP addresses and were unable to score any marks.

In 2c, a levels based question, many candidates were still confused between dynamic web pages and dynamic IP addressing. Many giving a good account of static and dynamic IP addressing which in no way related to the question. Security and hiding the web page was a favourite with quite a few candidates. However, there were many who did read the question correctly and gave a good account of Hilmi's web pages. A minority did attempt to relate the question to other websites rather than Hilmi.

3a involved interpreting a flowchart and showed the expected distribution of marks from 0 - 6.

3b(i) involved writing an SQL query and was not attempted by about half of the candidates. Those who did attempt the task usually picked up several marks.

3b(ii) should have produced a straightforward answer about the benefits of access to a specialised database in the context of the question. Large numbers of candidates ignored all context and answered in terms of benefits of using a database to store/search for information.

4a was very poorly answered, very often with no response. Where it was answered the majority discussed encryption rather than encapsulation. Only a minority mentioned headers but some did discuss the information being moved in the layers.

4b, in contrast to 4a, was much better answered, with the majority of candidates attempting this question gaining at least 3 marks. It was not unusual to award the full 6. Some good diagrams showed data flowing between the layers. Occasionally candidates lost marks as they mixed up the order of the layers.

4c(i) was much worse than 4b. Many candidates attempted to relate this question to the previous question, 4b, and discussed how it was quicker and less likely to be hacked as it has less layers. Many candidates did not attempt this question.

4c(ii). Many candidates understood that IPv6 has more addresses available than IPv4 but relatively few knew that it was also more secure. Far too many candidates answered the question in terms of the address structure. e.g. IPv4 uses dot separators while IPv6 uses colons, IPv4 is in decimal while IPv6 uses hexadecimal. This type of response does not answer the question.

Q5 is a levels based question and showed a good spread of marks in levels one and two. Most candidates seemed not to understand the difference between active and passive footprints and therefore found it hard to reach level three.

6a was probably the most difficult question in the paper and many candidates either did not attempt it or appeared to stop after a brief try. Those who did try to complete the question often scored over half marks although none managed full marks.

6b(i) and 6b(ii) were about civil liberties and government powers and were expected to be quite difficult for candidates to answer. Nevertheless, there were a significant number of full mark answers.



