

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

Applied GCE

Applied GCE

Information and Communication Technology (6953)

Paper 01 - The Knowledge Worker

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated ICT telephone line: 0844 372 2186

Summer 2010

Publications Code UA023482

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Edexcel Ltd 2010

General Comments

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

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 candidate's mark cannot be reduced further.
- QWC should not be assessed elsewhere in the unit

Most candidates attempted the paper in a logical fashion, showing evidence of good preparation. There were some minor changes in the format to some of the questions. On the whole, candidates handled these fairly well and in general found the new forms more accessible. It should be emphasised to candidates that reading the paper and understanding what is required is a necessary action if good marks are to be achieved.

Candidates from the same centre generally produced work of a similar standard. Those who scored low marks overall tended to have problems with activity 3. Candidates obtained reasonable marks in activities 2 and 4, so there were instances of candidates doing poorly in activity 3 and still achieving a good overall mark.

Many candidates produced work with very poor spelling and grammar. This was particularly evident for activities 2 and 5, and the letter.

All questions in most cases were attempted and in general though there did not appear to be any evidence to suggest that students did not have enough time to complete activities 4 or 5 as most scripts were complete.

There were several instances of centres sitting the exam outside of the exam window - evident by date on register or, from the candidates who had inserted today's date in the memo.

Activity 1

The first section of this question, required candidates to identify points relevant to the situation. Candidates tended to score from 7 - 13 marks in this section and many candidates scored full marks. It appeared that the majority of those who answered had understood what was required. However, there were instances of the question being repeated and having to wade through a lot of unnecessary text before arriving at the appropriate points to achieve marks.

The second part of the question was answered less successfully than the first, with many candidates not implying that more than one mini bus was to be used. However many candidates got all 3 marks for this section.

Activity 2

This was not answered well, and few candidates gained at least half of the 15 marks available.

The first section of this question was answered very poorly by the majority of candidates. There was a lack of understanding that this section was focussing on the system data and not the journey. Candidates tended to mix this up with the third section. The second section was similarly poorly answered with most candidates only achieving the 2 of the marks. The explanations were not succinct and in a lot of cases far too much text written was irrelevant.

Some of the candidates recognised that both sources should be used and tended to go for an average value, stronger candidates used the maximum. Many did not make a choice for this section and said they would consider both sources of data and make their choice later.

The final section of this question was answered far better than the other sections, however the number of candidates who achieved full marks was not significant. There were some inventive reasons supplied for possible delays to the journeys.

Activity 3

Importing

The first 2 marks for this section were achieved by the majority of candidates, however a significant number of candidates did not name their spreadsheets effectively.

Timings

This was not well answered and many only used one data source, and most of those who combined the two used the average not the maximum. Also, their choice did not always correspond with that stated in activity 2. A few created a separate sheet containing the averages of the two sources.

Timetable

This section was poorly answered by the majority of candidates. Most candidates attempted the question but did not carry out the formula correctly to achieve the marks, with a significant number only achieving the mark for the 'time' element.

There were a significant number of candidates who had formed a calculation that was different to cells on the same row. One or two centres used a cell value that couldn't be checked instead of the time function. Candidates had difficulty printing columns H & K on the same sheet.

Teams

Many candidates are still unsure of when to use the SUM function and when not to.

There are still many candidates who fail to use column and row headings. Gridlines could only be discerned on the imported data sheets and therefore this was used to award the marks.

Activity 4

The majority of candidates produced both memos but there were a significant number who did not use sensible timings. Many candidates had the bus drivers getting up at 2am and even more had the players hanging around at Crawley from 6 am. Some candidates supplied timetables with the number of pickups changed and there were several instances of candidates just changing date and copying previous memo contents.

Most candidates supplied two timetables, although authenticity was doubtful in many cases, with some buses arriving before they had set off, and many timetables with the wrong dates.

The standard of letters was fairly poor with slang and text speak used in many cases and some elementary spelling mistakes. Many candidates had the American dictionary set which didn't help the quality of the spelling.

The chart element of this activity was not completed correctly by a significant number of candidates. Those who did complete the chart did not, in the main, achieve full marks with a significant number not eliminating the zeros. Although there were some bar charts, most supplied pie charts, although the shading was inadequate.

Activity 5

This was poorly answered by the majority of candidates with no evidence of understanding of the model. Most candidates were able to make an ease of use statement.

Only a few candidates stated that they had been successful in obtaining a solution by producing bus timetables.

Few candidates could suggest any serious improvements to the model, some noticed that it was possible to select the same destination more than once, and a few made suggestions for that improvement. Most however relied on "changing the colours".

Unit Results

Grade	Maximum Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N
Boundary Mark	90	66	58	50	42	35	28
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, depending on the demands of the question paper.

Qualification Results

Advanced Subsidiary (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 Subsidiary (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 Subsidiary (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

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467
Fax 01623 450481

Email publications@linneydirect.com

Order Code UA023482 Summer 2010

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com/quals

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH