



General Certificate of Education

Information and Communication Technology 6520

Unit 2 Information: Management and Manipulation

Report on the Examination

2008 examination – January series

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Question 1

This question was generally well answered with the most candidates stating three types of data.

Question 2

Most candidates correctly identified two items of hardware needed for a personal computer to connect to the Internet. Only the better candidates gave convincing reasons e.g. a modem allows the computer to send and receive data over telephone lines. Weaker candidates just repeated the question 'to connect to the Internet'; this response gained no credit.

Question 3

The full range of marks was awarded for answers to this question. Better candidates clearly identified suitable uses for each method of data capture, weaker candidates confused the two optical methods given or gave very short answers that lacked clarity e.g. for part (b) 'marking exam papers' rather than 'marking exam papers with multiple choice questions'.

Question 4

Part (a) was generally well answered.

In part (b) most candidates could identify two examples.

Question 5

Part (a) was generally well answered with most candidates identifying all four problems.

For part (b) most candidates could name and describe a presence check; better candidates could describe two further checks. Only the best candidates gained full marks on this part of the question. Weaker candidates wrongly described verification methods.

In part (c) it was pleasing to see some excellent answers to this question with advantages to the company clearly identified by candidates.

Question 6

In part (a) the majority of candidates gave a clear explanation of the term generic package software. A small minority of candidates gave an incorrect answer by providing an explanation of the term integrated package.

For part (b) most candidates could identify three correct examples. However, a worrying minority of candidates just listed branded software and could gain no marks for this part of the question.

It is clearly stated on the front of all GCE ICT question papers that, ... *the use of brand names will not gain credit.*

Question 7

It was pleasing to read many good responses to this question with candidates citing the advantages of the features of a GUI rather than just providing descriptions.

Question 8

For part (a) better candidates related their answers to the project work scenario given in the question and identified appropriate key points. Weaker candidates did not always take full account of the scenario and gave answers that were not suitable e.g. considering which member of staff would be responsible for backing up work, when it was stated in the question that the students were responsible for backing up their own work.

In part (b)(i) most candidates could identify three functions that were only available if an LCD(data) projector was used. A common wrong answer was the use of colour which gained no credit.

For part (b)(ii) candidates who took the trouble to clearly identify the factors that should be considered when designing an effective presentation generally scored good marks for this part of the question. Those who relied on single word answers could not be credited. E.g. 'adoption of clear layout principles for the slides' would gain a mark, 'layout' on its own is not worth a mark.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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