



## **General Certificate of Education**

# **Information and Communication Technology 6521**

**ICT5            Information: Policy, Strategy and  
Systems**

## **Report on the Examination**

*2008 examination – June series*

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*Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.*

## **General Comments**

Most candidates attempted all of the questions on the paper.

### **Question 1**

Responses were generally favourable with many examples of candidates gaining full marks. The most common mistake where candidates gained zero marks was a misunderstanding of the question by referring to maintenance issues.

### **Question 2**

This was clearly a differentiating question where few candidates achieved maximum marks. Occasionally correct responses were offered for the wrong item of terminology. A frequent error was to offer the opposite meaning of the term – especially for ‘data redundancy’ with many talking about the action of reducing duplicated data rather than the actual condition of it being there. However, there is evidence that many tried to remember text book definitions although in many cases they weren’t successfully used.

### **Question 3**

This question was generally well received. In cases where candidates failed to score the reason was mainly through describing client server networks responses rather than client server databases.

### **Question 4**

Most candidates gained high marks for this question.

### **Question 5**

There was a mixed response to this question with a clear dividing line between those who knew what a ‘resource’ was and those who had guessed incorrectly its meaning (the most common examples being GUIs and Menu driven interfaces).

### **Question 6**

Some candidates demonstrated poor understanding of ‘portability’ and ‘robustness’. Additionally it was not uncommon to find the definition of the term being the same as the term itself, as with ‘functionality’. There was quite widespread confusion between ‘portability’ and ‘transferability’.

### **Question 7**

Generally well answered but there was a tendency to offer one word answers which often failed to gain a mark in part (b) where ‘e-mail’ lacked the word ‘attachment’ and ‘USB’ lacked reference to a device.

### **Question 8**

This was well answered by most candidates. In 8(a) there was no difficulty in offering four methods of security and descriptions were for the most part sound. 8(b) produced a mixed bag of responses with many pertaining to network accountancy issues rather than auditing – the most common of which was ‘to charge for printing’. Additionally a sizeable number of candidates referred to audit trails *preventing* misuse rather than deterring or monitoring.

### **Question 9**

Some candidates failed to gain marks because they answered this question with reference to physical rather than psychological factors.

### **Question 10**

There were some high scoring responses to this question with most candidates offering responses to all three bullet points.

The bullet point on backup strategies was by far the most comprehensively covered part of the question with many occurrences of maximum marks being awarded. There were liberal references to media, frequency, timing, storage and location as well as testing strategies and responsibility for testing.

The bullet point ‘needs of different users within organisations’ did not seem to present a major problem and many candidates gave the text book definitions of organisational personnel along with an example of the need in question. There were some candidates that fared less well, which could suggest that knowledge may be isolated. Centres need to remember that A2 units are synoptic and candidates are encouraged to use their knowledge and understanding of the subject as a whole.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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