



## **General Certificate of Education**

# **Information and Communication Technology 2520**

## **Unit 1      Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World**

# **Report on the Examination**

*2010 examination – January series*

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## **General Comments**

It was pleasing that many centres ensured their candidates' Sample Work was between 10 and 20 pages long, correctly numbered and attached to the back of the script with just one treasury tag, thus enabling candidates and examiners to find the relevant work with ease.

Centres are reminded that candidates should **not** submit:

- more than the recommended 20 pages
- duplicate evidence for each item required
- evidence of design, implementation and evaluation work.

Where included, the above disadvantaged candidates because they had too much to read through to find the relevant work.

It was pleasing to see that most candidates attempted all questions on the examination paper.

Centres are reminded to read this report in conjunction with the published mark scheme that includes sample answers and the section in the [specification](#) where the expectations of candidates performing at grade A and E are described (Appendix A, pages 33 to 35).

### **Question 1**

This question was well answered by the majority of candidates.

### **Question 2**

Better candidates answered this question well but many candidates exhibited little knowledge of this topic.

### **Question 3**

This question was well answered with the majority of candidates gaining at least 4 marks of the 6 available.

Better candidates related their answers to a task that they had completed using spreadsheet software and explained how the functionality they used helped them to complete the task effectively.

### **Question 4**

Evidence shows that not all candidates read this question carefully, resulting in some not gaining high marks because they did not answer the question asked. They wrote about the advice that they would give the friend rather than the questions that they would need to ask her before giving her advice thus gaining little credit.

### **Question 5**

It was pleasing to see some candidates showing their understanding of the practical work undertaken during their study of this unit and gaining high marks. However, where requested, a number of candidates did not gain high marks for this question because they did not follow the instructions in the question paper to either write the page number in the answer booklet or to annotate their sample work with the question number.

**Question 5(a)**

Only the better candidates were able to provide good explanations as to how they would evaluate that their client's requirement had been met. The majority of candidates did not demonstrate an understanding of how evaluation criteria relate to their client's requirements.

**Question 5(b)**

The full range of marks was awarded for this question. It was noticeable, however, that many candidates did not seem to appreciate the detailed information that needs to be collected about the inputs needed for their solution and the outputs required from it. Additionally, only the better candidates described a process well.

**Question 5(c)**

Many candidates were able to explain both why a test plan is needed and what would be included in it and gained high marks.

**Question 5(d)**

Many candidates were able to show their clear understanding of a testing result being different from the expected result and gained at least 3 out of the 4 marks available.

**Question 6**

Candidates who exhibited good examination technique by reading both parts of the question before starting to write their answers gained good marks on this question. Those who had attempted part (a) without having read part (b) appeared to show confusion in their answers.

**Question 6(a)**

This question was answered well by better candidates. Some candidates only gave a list of field names which gained few of the marks available.

**Question 6(b)**

Better candidates gave good answers which included processes.

**Question 7**

On the whole candidates wrote very good answers relating to the context of the question showing a good knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of the employer and the employee relating to health and safety. Weaker candidates failed to gain many marks, as they did not relate the answer to the context of the question.

The standard of English seen in some answers could make it difficult for the meaning to be understood. Candidates should be reminded that their quality of written communication is an integral part of the assessment of the answer to this question.

Centres are reminded that the instructions to candidates on the front cover of the examination paper stated that 'Question 7 should be answered in continuous prose. In this question you will be marked on your ability to: use good English, organise information clearly and use specialist vocabulary where appropriate'.

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

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