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General Certificate of Education

Information and Communication Technology 2520

Unit 2 Living in the Digital World

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – January series

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General Comments

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

Most candidates' answers matched the factors from the specification such as: environmental, social, ethical and cultural.

Question 2(a)

Many candidates correctly described information as processed data. Better candidates also explained that information has a context or meaning to human beings, or gave an example that clearly defined the difference between data and information.

Question 2(b)

The most common correct answers were: accurate, up-to-date, relevant or from a reliable source.

Question 3

It was clear from their answers to this question that some candidates did not understand the difference between coding, encoding and encryption of data.

Question 4(a)

Three distinct benefits were needed for full marks. Sharing of hardware devices, sharing of software (programs and data) and improved communication between users were the most common answers that gained credit. The benefit to network administrators of centrally managed resources or centrally managed backups was also a valid response.

Question 4(b)

The full range of marks was awarded for this question.

Question 5

Stronger candidates were able to discuss the factors affecting the choice of backup strategies in a clear manner and relate their answers to the context of the question.

Question 6

Very few candidates answered this question in the context of web-site design. Many candidates showed little understanding of the features of GUI. Stronger candidates scored well on part (b) of this question.

Question 7(a)

Surprisingly many candidates did not know the name of the current legislation.

Question 7(b)

Many candidates gained little credit as they simply repeated what was in the question.

Question 7(c)

Some candidates correctly discussed the concerns of home users, employers and network administrators, whilst others misinterpreted the question and gave answers that identified the measures that could be taken to ensure its privacy and security and thus gained little credit.

Question 8

In general this question was well answered by candidates. More able candidates were able to provide examples of a range of ICT developments that have made it easier to work from home. In addition to this they were able to explain how these would make teleworking more effective.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.