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General Certificate of Education

Information and Communication Technology 2520

Unit 1 Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – June series

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General Comments

It was pleasing that many centres ensured their candidates' Sample Work was between 10 and 20 pages and was attached to 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
- Sample Work that contains duplicate evidence for each item required
- sections on design, implementation and evaluation.

All of the above will disadvantage candidates because they have 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 section in the specification where the expectations of candidates performing at grade A and E is described (Appendix A, pages 33 to 35) as well as the published mark scheme where example answers can be seen.

Question 1

Only a small percentage of candidates scored full marks on this question. Unfortunately some candidates did not have good knowledge of input methods and many only mentioned devices and failed to justify the use of the method in context.

Question 2

Many candidates answered this question well.

Question 3

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

Question 4

Many candidates did not gain high marks for this question because they were unable to apply their understanding of the connection between testing and evaluation.

Questions 5(a) and 5(b)

Many candidates showed good understanding of their Sample Work and gained high marks in parts (a) and (b).

Most candidates were able to describe the problem that required a solution, to identify who required the solution and were able to refer to their Sample Work to give examples.

However, some candidates did not gain high marks for this question because they either did not annotate the page number in the answer booklet, or they failed to annotate their Sample Work with the question number.

Question 5(c)

A high number of candidates gained at least half marks for this question with the full range of marks being awarded. Some candidates gave answers that did not relate to the question asked, i.e. the input, processing and output required for the solution that they produced, which did not gain marks.

Question 5(d)

Better candidates were able to show their understanding of testing by specifying the test data they had used and by giving good justifications of why they had chosen that data and gained high marks. However, some candidates had not specified any test data in the Sample Work and therefore found it difficult to gain marks. Other candidates gave answers that did not relate to the test data they had used and were unable to give any justification as to why they had selected that test data.

Question 6(a)

Better candidates gave good answers to this question.

The majority of candidates scored at least 4 out of 8 marks on this question.

Question 6(b)

This question was answered well by many candidates.

Question 7

On the whole, better candidates wrote very good answers to this question without veering from the topic concerned, showing a good knowledge and understanding of the role and functions of systems and applications software and relating it to the context of the question. Many candidates failed to score more than half marks, as they just gave lists of types of software, and 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.