



**General Certificate of Education (A-level)  
June 2011**

**ICT**

**INFO1**

**(Specification 2520)**

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

***Report on the Examination***

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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 the Sample Work should contain a section which includes the items referred to in:

- Analysis – topic 2 in the specification
- Testing of ICT-related solutions – topic 9 in the specification.

Centres are also 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 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 published mark scheme that includes sample answers and the section in the Specification where the expectations of candidates performing at grades A and E are described.

## Question 1

The majority of candidates scored full marks in their responses to this question as they were able to give two appropriate examples of input devices that can be used with a games console.

## Question 2

The majority of candidates answered this question well, with many gaining full marks in parts (a) and (b). A good answer included three examples of output devices and a justification of why that device was suitable for each task. A small number of candidates parts (a) and (c) giving the same device which did not gain marks as the question stated the output devices given for each task must be different.

## Question 3

This question was not answered as well as expected with the majority of candidates scoring few of the marks available, giving answers that related to hardware not software. This may be due to poor examination technique by candidates not reading the question carefully enough.

## Question 4

A large number of candidates gained at least half marks. Better candidates were able to explain the functionality of presentation software and gained full marks; the weaker candidates did not apply their knowledge to presentation software.

## Question 5

It was pleasing to see a number of 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)**

Due to confusion amongst candidates of what exactly is meant by a problem identification in their Sample Work, alternative responses were credited on this occasion. Content which gained credit this time can be seen in the mark scheme.

Most candidates were able to explain what they had included in their problem identification, with many gaining at least half of the available six marks.

### **Question 5(b)**

Better candidates gained high marks for part (b) as they were able to explain why they needed to identify and clearly document the client requirements. The majority of candidates gained more than half of the six marks available.

### **Question 5(c)**

The full range of marks was awarded for this question. Some candidates gave answers that did not include reasons for testing a solution; these answers could not be credited.

### **Question 5(d)**

Better candidates were able to show their understanding of testing by describing tests performed for two different reasons, specifying test data they had used, describing the tests performed, justifying why the tests were performed and reporting on the result. Some weaker candidates did not show understanding of the reasons for testing and wrote extensive answers relating to only one reason and could not gain all the marks available.

### **Question 6**

This question was answered well by many candidates. A high number of candidates gained at least half marks with the full range of marks being awarded. Better candidates related their answer to the types of images used, the position of the other objects they included, and gave a good justification of their design.

### **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 software applications that can be used on mobile phones. Many candidates failed to score more than half marks as they did not show much understanding of the software applications available to users and just gave a list of what a mobile phone can be used for.

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'.

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