



**General Certificate of Education (A-level)  
January 2012**

**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 schools and colleges ensured that their students' Sample Work was between 10 and 20 pages in length and was attached to the script with just one treasury tag, thus enabling students and examiners to find the relevant work with ease.

Schools and colleges are reminded that the Sample Work should contain a section which includes the items referred to in Analysis (topic 2 in the specification) and Testing of ICT-related solutions (topic 9 in the specification).

Schools and colleges are also reminded that students should **NOT** submit:

- Sample Work that contains duplicate evidence for each item required
- sections on design, implementation and evaluation.

Students are disadvantaged if they have too many pages to look through to find the relevant work.

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

Schools and colleges are reminded to read this report in conjunction with the section in the specification where the expectations of students performing at grade A and E is described (Appendix A, pages 33 to 35) and the example answers in the mark scheme.

## Question 1

Approximately three quarters of students scored full marks in their responses to part (a) of this question as they were able to give an example of a storage device, but far fewer were able to give an example of a storage medium in part (b).

## Question 2

The majority of students answered this question well with more than half gaining full marks in parts (a) and (b). A good answer included the stage at which the questions would be asked and the purpose of asking the questions.

## Question 3

This question was answered well, with over a third of students scoring all of the marks available.

## Question 4

A small number of students gained full marks for this question. The majority of students gained only one mark. This may be due to poor examination technique by students not reading the question carefully enough.

## Question 5

The majority of students were able to gain at least 4 marks on this question. Some students did not include any justification in their answer.

## **Question 6**

It was pleasing to see a number of students showing their understanding of the practical work undertaken during their study of this unit and gaining high marks. However, a number of students 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 6(a)**

Most students were able to describe the problem for which their client needed a solution with nearly half gaining both marks.

### **Question 6(b)**

Better students gained high marks for part (b) as they were able to explain what is meant by the term user.

### **Question 6(c)**

Students who gained full marks for this answer were able to justify a suitable method of identifying the skills of user(s). Some answers did not contain any justification and therefore were unable to access the higher marks.

### **Question 6(d)**

Students with good examination technique who read the question correctly related the process(es) required and the inputs needed to produce one of the outputs from their solution and were awarded high marks. Some students gave answers relating to more than one output in little detail or only mentioned the inputs needed and not the processes.

### **Question 6(e)**

Better students were able to show their understanding of testing by describing tests that they had completed and related them to the question asked. Many students gained less than half marks in 6(e) as they only referred to the tests that they had completed to ensure the validity of data, not the accuracy of the output or the presentation of the output.

## **Question 7**

Over half of the students gained at least half marks for this question, with the full range of marks being awarded. Some students thought the foot rest picture was that of a laptop stand. Correct answers relating to a laptop stand were awarded marks.

## **Question 8**

This question was answered well by many students. A high number of students gained at least half marks for this question with the full range of marks being awarded. Better students related their answer to hardware, software and communication technologies that could be purchased before trading started.

On the whole better students wrote very good answers to this question without veering from the topic concerned, showing a good knowledge and understanding of hardware, software and communication technologies. Many students failed to score more than half marks, as they did not show much understanding of the hardware, software and communication technologies that may have been required. In some cases students only discussed one or two of hardware, software and communication technologies.

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

Schools and colleges are reminded that the instructions to students on the front cover of the examination paper stated that 'Question 8 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'.

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

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