



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

**ICT
(Specification 2520)**

INFO1

**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 back of 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 half of students scored full marks in their responses to this question producing a detailed folder structure diagram.

Question 2

The majority of students gained few marks on this question as they had little knowledge of cloud storage.

Question 3

This question was answered well, with almost half of students scoring all of the marks available.

Question 4

A minority of students gained full marks for this question. The majority of students gained at least half marks.

Question 5

The majority of students gained low marks for this question as they gave answers relating to file management software. 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, some 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 that the client is the person who requires a solution to a problem and relating the answer to their Sample Work with nearly two thirds 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 audience.

Question 6(c)

Students who gained full marks for this answer were able to explain what their client expected from the solution. Some answers contained only a list of client requirements without further explanation and therefore were unable to access the higher marks.

Question 6(d)

Students with good understanding of the processes that they need to implement to create the solution were able to gain high marks by giving good descriptions. Less able students simply listed processes showing no understanding and therefore did not access the higher marks.

Question 6(e)

Better students were able to show their understanding of testing by describing tests that they had completed and relating them to the question asked. Many students gained less than half marks in 6(e) as they did not refer to how the testing had ensured that the client requirements had been met.

Question 7

The majority of students gained approximately half marks for this question. Whilst the full range of marks was awarded, some students did not relate their answer to the scenario set in the question; this may be due to poor examination technique.

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 up-to-date input devices as well as traditional ones.

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 input devices.

Many students failed to score more than half marks, as they did not show much understanding of input devices, including output and storage devices in their answer.

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'.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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