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Cambridge Career Awards in ICT - Foundation

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Overall general comments

Again the scheme has gone from strength to strength, with entries rising considerably compared with the same period last year. The award is available in English, Spanish and Greek. The total number of entries in English showed a marked increase, especially at Standard Level and Advanced Level. The entries in Greek, which is only available at Standard Core, have also grown considerably. Spanish papers are also growing in popularity.

This level comprises of a Core module and five Enhancement modules.

There was an overall pass rate of 83% for these modules; as expected, the core module pass rate was slightly lower (75%) than the enhancement modules, but this is in line with the time requirement of each type of Paper. These rates had risen significantly from last year when the overall rate was 60% with 51% for the Core Paper. The standard of the scripts received from Centres was far better in all modules than in previous years. The pass rate for Spanish entries was 84%.

Module 5181
Core

There was an overall pass rate of 75% for this module. The most common error found this year was:

- The loss of data integrity during sorts. Many candidates failed to highlight all the data prior to sorting by a specified field which meant that the data became irrelevant to the task in hand.

Other common errors included:

- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts are without these.

- The failure to produce formulae printouts from the spreadsheet. The most common package used was Excel and many candidates did not know how to use Tools, Options and tick the Formulas box prior to printing.

Module 5182
Creating Charts

There was an overall pass rate of 88% for this module. The overall standard of entries for this module was excellent. The most common errors included:

- Careless errors in the labelling of the charts or axes of graphs. Sometimes candidates are allowing the software (wizards) to generate the charts, without consideration of the requirements of the Question Paper.

- Selecting the wrong data series, especially when the data is not in adjacent rows or columns.

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Module 5183

Desktop Publishing

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There was an overall pass rate of 73% for this module. This was a great improvement on last year. The most common errors included:

- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts, are without these.

- The failure to align text as specified.

- The failure to place and resize graphics as specified.

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).

- Missing or erroneous column breaks.

- The failure to set the page orientation as specified.

- The failure to set up all four margins as specified.

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Module 5184

Computer Graphics

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There was an overall pass rate of 92% for this module which was much improved from last year's 79% pass rate. The most common errors included:

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).

- The failure to copy, manipulate and paste elements of the image.

- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts, are without these.

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Module 5185

Database Operations

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There was a marked improvement in the standard of work submitted and the overall pass rate increased from 63% last year to 85% this year for this module. The most common errors included:

- The failure to select the correct search criteria.

- The failure to sort the required data as specified. A number of candidates had transposed the sort orders.

- The failure to edit the data as specified in the Question Paper.

- The failure to show all fields, or only specified fields in the printouts as required by the particular question.

Module 5186

Website Design

There was a significant improvement in the standard of work submitted for this module and the overall pass rate increased from 83% last year to 95% this year. The most common errors included:

- The failure to complete the paper in the allocated time.

- The failure to direct the routing for graphics images to the correct place, leaving all the web pages devoid of graphics.

- The failure to creating the hyperlinks either internally or to the Hothouse website.

- The failure to set an anchor and hyperlink to link back to the top of the page as specified in the question paper.

- The failure to print out the html source code.

- Some candidates also used the wrong graphic image/s; and some also printed no html code.