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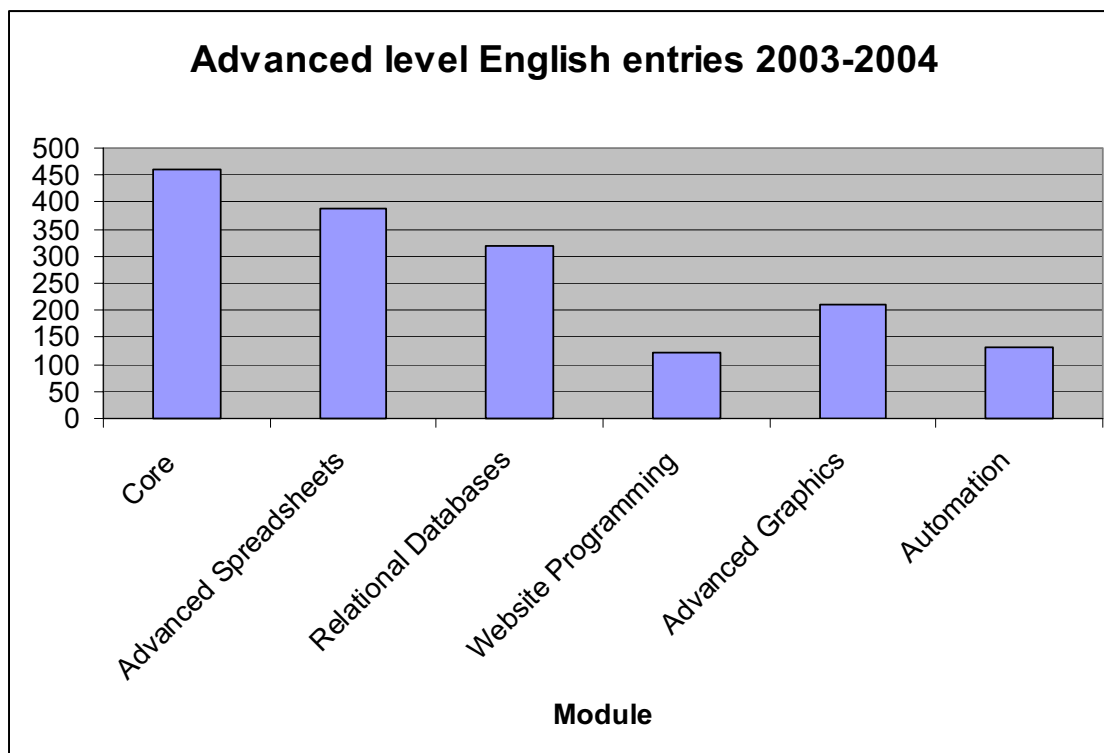
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ICT ADVANCED LEVEL

General comments

Again the scheme has gone from strength to strength, with entries rising from 5555 in 2002-3 to 8403 in 2003-4. The award was available in English, Spanish and Greek. The total number of entries in English showed a 58% increase and was up to 6332, of which 1125 entries were at Foundation Level, 2475 were at Standard Level and 912 at Advanced Level. This indicates a significant increase in numbers at all levels. The entries in Greek have shown an increase on the previous year, with a total of 1186 entries during this year.

This level comprised a Core module and five enhancement modules.



There overall pass rate for these modules was marginally lower than last year.

Paper 5201

Core

The most common error was:

- The failure to submit all the required printouts, particularly the two different copies of the document.

Other errors included:

- Errors in page layout with the failure to set margins or column widths as specified.
- The failure to resize the imported graphic or to text wrap around this graphic.
- 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.
- Charts that were inserted but were unreadable, either because of the scaling of the chart or because of errors in the data series (usually because too much data had been selected as it was created).
- Errors inserting new text into a numbered list and renumbering as specified in the question paper.
- Errors in searching and sorting the database extract (particularly in maintaining the data integrity).

Paper 5202
Advanced Spreadsheets

The majority of entries for this module were either very good or contained quite a number of mistakes. The most common errors included:

- Candidates who used the COUNT function instead of the COUNTA function.
- The failure to manipulate strings within the spreadsheet.
- The failure to correctly construct the pivot table or to construct it based upon the wrong data.
- Candidates who calculated responses using external devices/software and entered values rather than formulae.
- Candidates who could not produce formulae printouts of their work.
- Column widths too narrow to enable either the value or all of the label/formulae to be viewed.
- The failure to format cells as specified.

Paper 5205
Relational Databases

The most common error was:

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

Other errors included:

- The failure to select the data using a wildcard.
- The failure to produce grouped reports, or if produced they were grouped on the wrong fields.
- The failure to sort database reports by the required fields. On some occasions the candidates confused ascending and descending order and on others got the sort priorities in the wrong order.
- The failure to produce calculated fields and controls on an Access report.
- Cross-tab queries (pivot tables) were not completed correctly, usually because the wrong source data was selected.

Paper 5206
Website Programming

This module was poorly completed by many candidates. Few finished the paper, whilst many candidates could design the web side front end, few managed to correctly validate the data entry and write the data into a data file. The majority of those who were successful wrote directly in SQL. Other errors included:

- The failure to place radio buttons or a check box on the input form.
- The failure to perform a length check on the data entered onto the form.

Paper 5207
Advanced Graphics

The most significant error in the vast majority of candidates who did not reach the required standards was the failure to colour mask within a layer. The other significant reason for failure (for the second year running) was the inability to print in colour. This module must be printed in colour to enable the Examiner to mark the script. As such features as colour sampling, brightness, contrast, adjustment of primary colours within an RGB spectrum, hue, density, gradation and saturation are likely to be tested, then the evidence of many of these changes can only be viewed in colour.

Paper 5208
Automation

There was a significant improvement in the quality of candidates work for this module throughout the year. The most common error was:

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

The most common errors included:

- The lack of automation of the documents using commands like FILLIN and conditional operators like SKIPIF using these commands at run time.
- The inability to use or print an automated menu (either by printing out the VB, macros, hyperlinks or other methods of routing).
- The inability to evidence that the automation was present in the mail merged document (by printing out the document with the merge codes).