Cambridge International Diploma in Computing

Why are we introducing the Cambridge International Diploma in Computing?
This award replaces DIT, which had its last examination session in November 2001. Much of its content is similar to the Core modules and one of the Enhancement modules in DIT.

What's the time limit for each module 2 task?
There is no stated time limit

When does students' work for module 2 have to be marked and submitted by?
By April 30th for the June session and October 31st for the November session.

What kind of online support is available?
Initially, there is a comprehensive resource list of recommended books, etc. available online. We also have specimen papers, click here to view.

How are Pass and Distinction awarded for each module, and for the full Diploma?
For individual modules, the raw marks will be graded along with A Level Candidates. Pass and Distinction will correspond to the appropriate grade thresholds. For the full Diploma, a candidate will need three or more modules at Distinction Level to gain a Distinction overall.

How is it different from ICT/IT Skills?
IT and ICT focus on developing competencies for the computer user, whereas the CID in Computing is intended for students who wish to learn about computer systems and programming, rather than about the application of ICT.

So is it more difficult than ICT Advanced?
It is more specialised but should be equal in terms of difficulty.

What is its relationship with the new unitised A/AS Level in Computing?
Three out of the four modules/components are identical. The only differences are the practical project (module 4), which will involve more advanced programming skills for the Diploma. The content of the Diploma's practical module goes beyond what is expected of A Level students, so it could be said to bridge the gap between an Advanced Level and Professional Level Diploma.
Despite their similarities, there will be 2 separate syllabuses and sets of exam papers.

How will it be assessed?
2 written exams
Module 1 - Computer Systems, Communications and Software
Module 3 - Further Systems and Software
One practical paper, marked by the Centre and moderated by CIE
Module 2 - Structured Practical Tasks
One practical project, marked by the Centre and moderated by CIE
Module 4 - Programming Project

Who is it suitable for?
Like DIT, it is mainly suitable for students who intend to work in an IT-related job, particularly as a programmer, network manager or software engineer. These could be school or college students or adults wishing to re-train.

How long does the course take?
This will vary from centre to centre and also depend on the candidates' prior knowledge, but will normally require 360 learning hours.

How do we receive the question paper for module 2?
This is available from September for the June session and January for the November session. We will send registered Centres a letter with an email address and password. The auto-reply message they receive will contain the question paper as an attachment.

Should the module 2 tasks be spread over time or administered in one go?
Centres can do either. It depends entirely on their curriculum.