

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

Examiners' report

IT

05838–05842, 05877

Unit 1 January 2022 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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Unit 1 series overview

<i>Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:</i>	<i>Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were able to interpret the context of the question well• Understood the key question words in giving a response• Had a good technical knowledge• Used appropriate technical vocabulary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did not use technical terminology• Did not understand the key question words in relation to how to answer• Used responses from previous question papers.

Section A overview

There seemed to be some correlation between marks on the MCQ and marks overall as some candidates scoring 5 or 6 on the MCQ were showing similar gaps in knowledge in Part B. Candidates achieving 11 or more marks lost the marks on Questions 1, 2, 7 and 12. Many candidates achieved single digit scores here.

Question 1

1 Which of the following is a characteristic of an embedded computer system?

A Able to carry out a wide range of tasks

B Can be upgraded by a user

C Contains a complex user interface

D Low power consumption

[1]

A good proportion of candidates were able to identify (D) Low power consumption as the correct response.

Question 2

2 Which hardware is needed to connect a tablet computer to the internet?

A NIC

B Router

C Server

D Wireless Access Point (WAP)

[1]

A good proportion of candidates chose (D) Wireless Access Point (WAP).

Question 3

3 Which of the following is a development tool?

A CAD/CAM

B Compiler

C Project Management

D Spreadsheet

[1]

A good proportion recognised that (B) Compiler was the correct development tool. Others chose (C) Project Management or (A) CAD/CAM which are both business software, with a small proportion choosing (D) Spreadsheet (productivity software).

Question 4

4 Which of the following is a benefit of off-the-shelf software?

A Available immediately

B Free

C Has lots of extra features

D Requires an annual fee

[1]

A very high number of candidates chose (A) Available immediately.

Question 5

5 Which communication method allows real-time internet chat conversations?

A Email

B Instant messaging

C Short Messaging Service

D Voice over Internet Protocol

[1]

A good proportion of candidates selected the correct response (B) Instant messaging. Others chose (C) Short Messaging Service, or (D) Voice over Internet Protocol.

Question 6

6 FTP stands for:

A Fast Transfer Protocol

B File Transfer Protocol

C File Translation Protocol

D Final Transistor Position

[1]

A large number of candidates correctly identified (B) File Transfer Protocol. A few others chose (A) Fast Transfer Protocol.

Question 7

7 Which of the following is **not** a form of virtualisation?

A Client

B Cloud

C Hypervisor

D Storage

[1]

A reasonable number of candidates identified (C) Hypervisor as the correct response. Other responses often identified were quite mixed with (A) Client and (B) Cloud..

Question 8

8 Which connectivity method would be the most suitable to create a secure link between two banks?

A ADSL

B Ethernet

C ISDN

D Leased Line

[1]

A good proportion of candidates correctly chose (D) Leased Line. Others mostly selected (A) ADSL.

Question 9

9 Which communication method would be most affected by a noisy environment?

A Email

B Group discussion

C Letter

D Social networking

[1]

A reasonably good proportion of candidates were able to correctly identify (B) Group discussion. Others identified (D) Social networking.

Question 10

10 Identify the personal attribute required to be a network manager.

A Body language

B Can do attitude

C Eye contact

D Planning and organisation skills

[1]

A good proportion of candidates correctly identified (D) Planning and organisation skills. A small number of candidates chose (A) Can do attitude, which shows someone is ready for work and would relate to many different job roles.

Question 11

11 Which of the following demonstrates that an employee is ready to work?

A Bias

B Personal grooming

C Problem-solving skills

D Respect

[1]

A good proportion of candidates selected (B) Personal grooming. Others chose (C) Problem-solving skills or (D) Respect, which are both personal attributes.

Question 12

12 Which of the following is **not** a purpose of a professional body?

A Gain industry certification

B Organise industrial action

C Provide forums for discussion

D Regulation of standard operating procedures

[1]

A few candidates correctly identified (B) Organise industrial action. Quite a few others selected (C) Provide forums for discussion, which suggested they had not seen the negative aspect of the question format.

Question 13

13 Which operational issue would be implemented if a flood affected a business's computer systems?

A Acceptable use policy

B Change management

C Disaster planning and recovery

D Health and Safety

[1]

A high proportion of candidates correctly selected (C) Disaster planning and recovery. A few others selected (D) Health and Safety.

Question 14

14 Which of the following is **not** a feature of providing remote access for a business's employees?

A Allows high level of security

B Easily scalable

C Only accessible through one type of device

D User friendly

[1]

A good number of candidates selected (C) Only accessible through one type of device. Others mostly selected (B) Easily scalable.

Question 15

15 Which digital security method can be linked to user groups when protecting a computer system?

A Anti-spyware

B Biometrics

C Encryption

D Username and password

[1]

A reasonable number of candidates selected (D) Username and password. A fair proportion of other candidates chose (C) Encryption.

Question 17 (b)

(b) Explain one disadvantage to the developer of using the hybrid device.

.....
.....
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..... [2]

Candidates who were able to explain a hybrid device would often score here with a reference to the fact that if part of the device failed then the whole device would need replacing.

Question 18

18* The SKA team members based in Dundee monitor the work of the developers. The developers are based all over the United Kingdom.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using video conferencing by the SKA team members to monitor and interact with the developers.

[10]

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Good responses included detailed explanations on either side of the argument with subject specific terminology. Others produced descriptions relating more to advantages or disadvantages. A few candidates identified only generic points in relation to video conferencing. Most candidates attempted this question.

Question 20

- 20** Strange Karga Arts (SKA) use a Management Information System (MIS) to track the development of the games.

Identify and describe **two** advantages and **one** disadvantage of using an MIS. Use examples related to SKA to support your answers.

Advantage 1

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Advantage 2

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Disadvantage

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[9]

A few candidates were able to identify an advantage and disadvantage of a MIS. A popular response for disadvantage was cost, but usually without appropriate explanation. Some candidates simply reused the question phrasing to attempt a response to the question.

Question 21 (b)

(b)* An animator has told SKA that another computer games development company has offered them a new job for higher pay.

Explain the ethical issues that the offer from the computer games development company has caused for SKA and how these could be addressed.

[10]

.....
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.....

Good responses included detailed explanations of the ethical issues relating to this particular context and the way that SKA could address these. Some good responses were able to clearly describe a range of ethical issues raised for SKA and possible solutions. Others provided descriptions relating an ethical issue. Other candidates were unable to identify an ethical issue.

Question 22

22 Identify **two** physical protection methods that SKA could implement in the Dundee office to protect their new computer games.

1

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2

.....

[2]

A large number of candidates provided good responses correctly identifying two suitable physical protection methods from the specification. A few identified digital protection methods such as usernames and passwords.

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