

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

Level 2 Principal Learning
Information Technology

Unit 1 (IT201) The Potential of Technology

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General Comments

As in the previous series the learners made a good attempt at the paper with a high percentage passing , however there was a slight fall in the number passing the paper and a fall in the percentage gaining A and A* grades.

Learning Outcome 2 and Learning Outcome 3 where the focus is on applying knowledge still continues to be the areas where learners struggle. The majority did, in this series, do well on Learning Outcome 1.

Candidates continued to do well on Learning Outcome 4 - 'Understand how technology is changing the way organisations, individuals and society operate'.

Question 1

Focus – Banking, including ATMs, new technologies and online banking

The majority of candidates were able to identify where electronic data is stored on a card and that a PIN must be entered into the ATM to activate the card. However, only half of candidates were able to identify one task that cannot be carried out using an ATM.

Only a small minority of candidates were able to identify a reason for introducing a system for sending text alerts to customers.

Q1(g) focussed on the impact of providing online banking facilities, the majority of candidates gained two or three marks.

Question 2

Focus – Internet shopping and logistics (item tracking)

Candidates did well in (a), components needed to use the internet effectively and also in (b), how a website can contribute to the success of a company.

Only a small minority were able to correctly identify the legislation passed to prevent unauthorised access to data on other people's computers.

Item tracking was assessed in (e) and (f); only half of candidates identified the information needed to pick an item in a warehouse, however the majority identified a benefit to a company of using item tracking.

Question 3

Focus – EPOS, EFTPOS and loyalty card systems

EPOS was assessed in (a) and (b) and this was well answered by the majority of candidates.

Candidates were asked to identify the benefit of an EFTPOS system in (c)(ii) and only half gave correct responses.

Part (d) concentrated on loyalty card schemes and the majority of candidates were able to gain two or three marks. However, only a small percentage of candidates were able to identify where the data of customers participating in a loyalty card scheme is stored.

Question 4

Focus – Health: online appointments, expert diagnostic systems and patient monitoring

As in Question 2, candidates did not do well in identifying legislation in (a).

Responses to patient monitoring questions were poor with only a small number identifying a sensor being used to monitor heart rate and only just over half correctly identifying a benefit of patient monitoring.

In general candidates did well on the expert diagnostic questions in (e) and (f).

Question 5

The scenario for the question was a kitchen manufacturer and candidates were asked questions on a variety of related issues

Overall the question was well answered with a majority of candidates gaining marks in all parts.

The weakest responses were in (b), a benefit of CAD, and, (d)(i) the benefit of an intranet.

The majority of candidates were able to identify the components of a SAT NAV system, but fewer were able to identify a benefit of GPS.

Question 6

Focus – Manufacturing

The question was not particularly well answered; the majority gained the mark for (a) and also gained two or three marks in (b), but less than half were able to identify a reason for using robots to spray-paint cars.

Question 7

Focus – Impact of technologies

Whilst the majority of candidates were able to achieve two or three marks for correctly identifying statements relating to the increased use of mobile technologies, less than half were able to give correct responses in (b)(i) and (b)(ii) relating to the availability of information on the internet.

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