



General Certificate in Secondary Education

**Design & Technology
(Electronic Products) 3541/3551
Full or Short Course**

Full Course (3541) Foundation Tier

Report on the Examination

2007 examination - June series

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General

Centres are to be congratulated on their preparation of candidates for the examination with most adapting well to the restriction on the use of colour in the design questions. The majority of candidates also completed their answers within the space provided making the task of marking more straightforward.

Full Course (3541) Foundation Tier

The majority of candidates attempted to answer all the questions, and there were only a small percentage of blank responses. Candidates generally scored well with the design question, and the quality of drawings were usually good, although many candidates appear to rush, and therefore don't gain the full marks for quality of communication.

Question 1

- (a) Was generally well answered, however the quality and accuracy of some of the symbols was disappointing.
- (b) Was a high scoring question for most candidates'.

Question 2

- (a) Candidates scored well
- (b) Candidates failed to describe the function, with many candidates just naming the components.
- (c) Many candidates recognised the changes that had been made to the circuit, but only a few could describe the effects of the change, and particularly the addition of the transistor.

Question 3

- (a) A good response from the majority of candidates.
- (b) Whilst candidates scored quite well, there were many irrelevant questions that would not really feature in a questionnaire.
- (c) Many candidates gained good marks.
- (d) A good understanding was shown by most candidates.
- (e) Was well answered by the majority of candidates. There were many responses referring to batteries 'blowing-up'.

Question 4

- (a) Candidates managed to score well
- (b) There were very few good attempts.
- (c) Candidates managed to score well.

Question 5

Considering the regularity of this basic building block featuring in the examination the responses from candidates was disappointing.

- (a) Few candidates scored full marks, but most drew recognisable components. However, the quality of drawing can be improved by using a ruler, drawing in proportion and showing clear connections.
- (b) Describing the condition of the LEDs was very poorly answered, with very few candidates showing any understanding at all.
- (c) Many candidates scored well but a significant number did not know the symbol for a buzzer.

Question 6

- (a) Although there were a few responses to generic materials, most candidates scored well with the suggestions for specific materials.
- (b) Was generally well answered.
- (c) The majority of candidates scored well on the design question, although many seem to rush the drawings. Candidates addressed the individual points from the question in their designs although many failed to show significant changes to the given design.
- (d) Many wrote a good evaluation of their case design, but very few wrote about the suitability for batch production, and there were very few references to named production methods. As a result, candidates could not access the full range of marks.

Question 7

Most candidates picked up marks on this question with the truth table being answered much better than in previous papers.

Question 8

The majority of candidates attempted all sections of this question, and showed a good understanding of the issues.

- (b) The health and social issue question was answered particularly well.

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