Examiners' Report
January 2012

GCSE ICT 5IT01 01

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January 2012

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Introduction

This is the third time that candidates have sat for examinations for this unit, which requires them to explore how current and emerging digital technologies impact on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. This is a single untiered paper that has been specifically designed so that easier questions are more prevalent earlier in the paper, becoming progressively more difficult later on. This paper has been designed to be accessible, so that candidates of all ability ranges will find questions that are both challenging and interesting throughout the paper.The paper follows a scenario, which candidates can relate to and respond within. Additionally, candidates will find that 'command words' are used consistently in the paper to indicate the type of response expected.It is hoped that candidates will demonstrate the knowledge understanding and skills required to be savvy users of ICT.

Successful candidates often provided more detailed responses and there were fewer examples of candidates providing simple statements, where expansions or explanations were required. For example, where questions asked candidates to give advantages or benefits, it was less common to see them responding with 'quick' or 'easy' without expanding upon or justifying their response.

Question 1 (b)

Most candidates did not gain both marks for this question, which required them to give two different uses for the motion sensor. Those that gained marks usually gave uses related to playing games and rotating the screen image.

(b) Tablet Computer B has a sensor, which detects any movement of the device.

The device uses data from the sensor to switch itself off if it is dropped.

Give **two** other ways the device could use data from the sensor.

(2)

1. facial recognition

2. light and darkness e.g if its dark inside lower the brightness to save energy but if your in a bright room increase the brightness so

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Some candidates failed to gain marks as they gave uses for other sensors, as in this example.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

You must read the question carefully.

Question 1 (c)

Most candidates gained both marks for this question.

(c) Michael buys a tablet computer.

He wants to transfer a fitness video from his desktop computer to his tablet computer. He has the choice of linking the devices using a wired or wireless connection.

(i) Give **one** advantage to Michael of using a **wired** connection for the transfer.

(1)

It is much faster at trassfering data than a wireless connection

(ii) Give **one** advantage to Michael of using a **wireless** connection for the transfer.

(1)

He can move the tablet around the house during the transfer as long as It's within range of the connection

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gained both marks. Notice how in part (ii), the candidate has shown an understanding of wireless connectivity, by stating that transfers can only be carried out 'within range of the connection'.
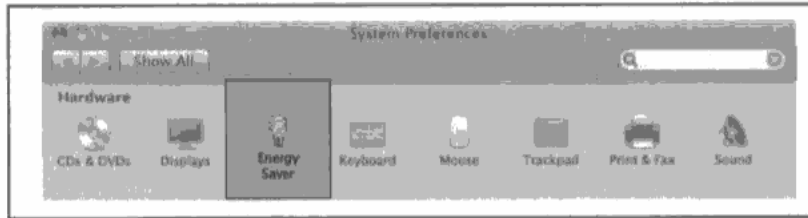
ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

You should provide answers that show real understanding of the technology. For example, it is incorrect to state that an advantage of wireless connections is that 'transfers can be made from anywhere'.

Question 1e

Most candidates gained both marks for this question.

(e) Michael can reduce the energy use of his tablet computer.

Identify **one** feature of the tablet computer that uses energy. State what could be changed to reduce its energy use.

(2)

Feature

Brightness of the screen

Change

turn the brightness down

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response.

Question 1 (f)

Most candidates gained the mark for this question, many showing a good understanding of screen resolution.

(f) The tablet computer has a high-resolution screen.

State what is meant by 'high-resolution'.

(1)

The picture quality is high, as there are more pixels per cm² / inches²

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response.

Question 1 (g)

Most candidates gained the mark for this question by giving responses related to RSI or 'eye strain'.

(g) Michael's tablet computer uses a touch screen interface instead of a keyboard and mouse.

State **one** risk to Michael's health from the extended use of a touch screen interface.

(1)

Can lead to health issues e.g. RSI, because of repeated movement of the fingers.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A typical correct response related to RSI.

Question 1 (h)

Some candidates did not gain either of the marks for this question, because they gave answers relating to hosted software and/or cloud computing.

> (h) The tablet computer uses open source software.
>
> Give **two** advantages to Michael of using open source software rather than proprietary software.
>
> (2)
>
> 1 It doesnt take up memory on his tablet computer
>
> 2 He can access it from anywhere

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A typical incorrect response.

> 1 THE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE COMMUNITY IS MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO EDIT THE SOFTWARE SO THEY CAN GIVE HIM ADVICE^ (FOR EXAMPLE HOW TO USE FEATURES OF THE SOFTWARE)
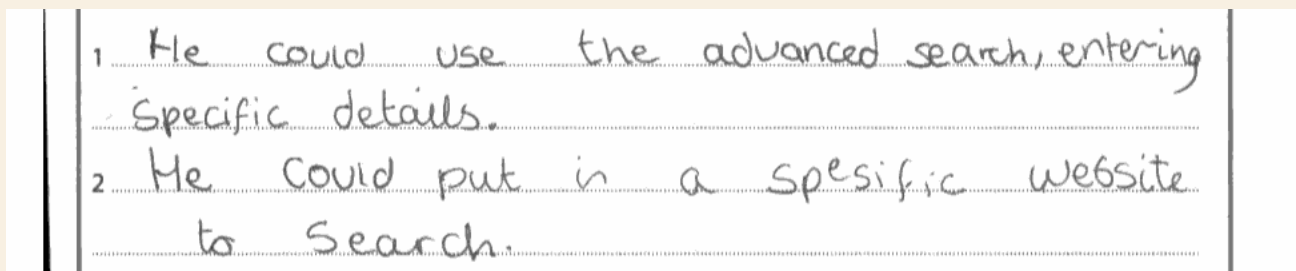>
> 2 IT IS FREE OF CHARGE.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This candidate gained both marks, showing particularly good understanding of the advantages provided by the collaborative nature of open source software development.

Question 2 (a) (ii)

Most candidates gained at least one mark for this question, with responses often including suggestions for Ryan to use speech marks or boolean operators. Occasionally, candidates would suggest using filter by date/location.

> 1 He could use the advanced search, entering specific details.
> 2 He could put in a spesific website to search.

Question 2 (a) (iii)

Although many candidates gained one mark, (usually for stating that viral videos were useful for advertising), a significant number of candidates did not gain the second mark, because they did not expand upon their answer to include the ease of distribution, or cost benefits.

(iii) Ryan clicks on this link:

> **VIEW VIDEO OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST PLANES!**
> Fighter jets and commercial aircraft take to the skies in this heart thumper!
> www.flightsonvideo.net   Last updated: 02-01-12

It opens a viral video.

Describe why viral videos are useful to companies.

(2)

Viral videos are shared with viewers online. When viral videos are shared more & more people watch it & are informed of the company being advertised. Viral videos attract & make more people aware of the company in, for example, the hope that more products

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response.
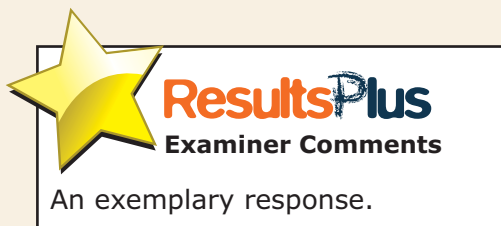
Question 2 (b)

Many candidates failed to gain marks for this question.

(b) Ryan decides to buy his flight tickets online. Before he pays, he signs up for an online account.

Give **two** advantages to Ryan of using an online account to buy flight tickets.

(2)

1 ... He does not have to travel to ~~buy~~ his tickets – less harm to the environment as less fossil fuels are being burnt – less CO₂ emissions

2 ... Saves time as Ryan does not have to leave the house and does not have to find the place to buy them from.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

When candidates did not gain marks, it was often because they gave answers such as this one, which relates to advantages of online shopping, rather than the use of an online account.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

You must read the full question (including the stem) to ensure you are answering the questions in context.

Question 2 (c)

Most candidates gained at least one mark for this question, usually for the first part of the response in (i)

(c) When Ryan creates his online account, he is asked to choose a password.

He sees this:

(i) State why Ryan needs to enter his password twice.

(1)
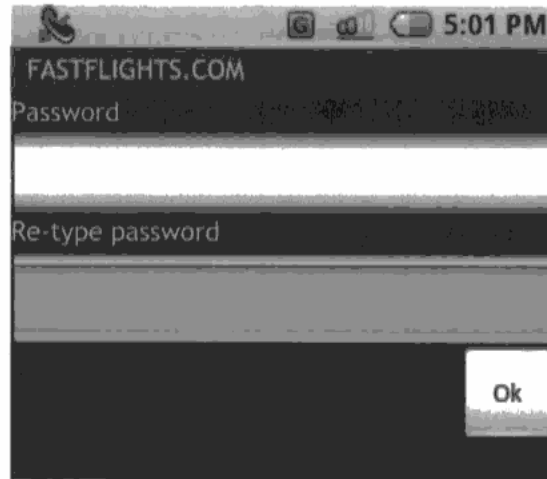
to make sure the original password is correct and not mispelt.

(ii) Ryan is also asked for a memorable phrase. This will be used in a challenge response test to control access to his online account.

Give **one** other example of the type of information that could be used in a challenge response test.

(1)

They could ask for a range of specific numbers

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained both marks

(i) State why Ryan needs to enter his password twice.

So the site can confirm that he has typed it —his password— in correctly.

(1)

(ii) Ryan is also asked for a memorable phrase. This will be used in a challenge response test to control access to his online account.

Give **one** other example of the type of information that could be used in a challenge response test.

(1)

Personal questions i.e. his mothers maiden name.

Question 2 (d) (ii)

This question was very well answered by candidates, with a large majority gaining the mark.

(ii) Give **one** disadvantage to Ryan of the browser remembering his password.

(1)

If someone were to use his computer they would be able to access his account without typing the password.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A correct response that gained the mark.

It is quicker getting into the website.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response provides an advantage, rather than a disadvantage.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Take time to read the questions carefully. If you have time at the end, check through the paper to make sure your responses make sense when read with the question.

(ii) Give **one** disadvantage to Ryan of the browser remembering his password.

(1)

he will never forget it

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Occasionally, candidates misread the question.

Question 2 (f)

Most candidates gained the mark for this question, often giving responses relating to 'he might not want marketing e-mails', 'annoying customers' or legislation reasons.

(f) The website gives Ryan the option to receive offers by email.

State **one** reason why Fast Flights would ask Ryan for his permission before sending him marketing emails.

(1)

~~Because to~~ They ask Ryan for his permission because he might not want the offers and he might not use them again.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A typical correct response that gained the mark.

Question 2 (g)

Most candidates gained the mark for this question, often giving responses related to receiving the latest news/updates.

(g) The site offers RSS feeds.

State **one** reason why Ryan might subscribe to the RSS feed from this site.

(1)

It would automatically push new content on the website to him, saving him having to visit the website for to check for new content.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response, showing excellent understanding.

TO GAIN MORE INFORMATION HE MAY NEED
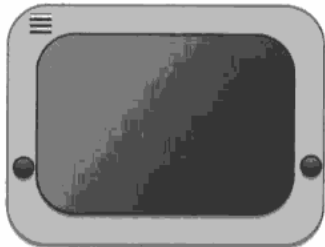
ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response did not give enough to gain the mark.

Question 3 (b) (i)

On average, candidates gained 1 mark. Many gained marks for mentioning connecting the devices using WiFi but some responses mentioned 'Bluetooth' or 'infrared' instead and did not gain the mark.

(b) Ryan's phone has WiFi connectivity and access to mobile broadband.

Michael's tablet computer only has WiFi connectivity.

Michael's tablet computer	Ryan's phone
Mobile broadband ✗	Mobile broadband ✓
WiFi ✓	WiFi ✓

(i) Describe how Ryan could share his phone's mobile broadband connection with Michael's tablet computer without using cables.

(2)

Ryan's phone can be turned into a router recieving internet from 3G (mobile broadband). Michael would connect to Ryans router (phone) using wi-fi and access the internet

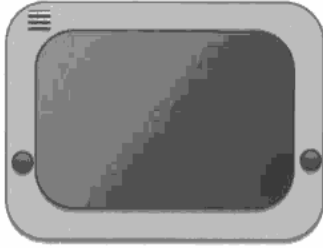(ii) State how Ryan could prevent other devices from sharing his connection

(b) Ryan's phone has WiFi connectivity and access to mobile broadband.

Michael's tablet computer only has WiFi connectivity.

Michael's tablet computer	Ryan's phone
Mobile broadband ✗	Mobile broadband ✓
WiFi ✓	WiFi ✓

(i) Describe how Ryan could share his phone's mobile broadband connection with Michael's tablet computer without using cables.

(2)

As they both have a sim card slot, ~~they~~ he could take it out of one and put it in the other depending on which one he's on

(ii) State how Ryan could prevent other devices from sharing his connection.

Question 3 (b)(ii)

The vast majority of candidates gained the mark for this question.

(ii) State how Ryan could prevent other devices from sharing his connection.

(1)

he could password the connection with an access key or simply hide the SSID from other people (don't broadcast it)

(iii) Explain why sharing the connection might affect the bandwidth available to

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response includes two valid methods and gained the one mark available.

Question 3 (b) (iii)

Although some candidates gained one mark for this question, many did not gain the second mark, as they gave answers relating to the bandwidth 'slowing down' rather than being 'reduced'.

(iii) Explain why sharing the connection might affect the bandwidth available to Ryan.

(2)

the bandwidt would decrease because it has to be shared between the two devices

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained both available marks.

Because other will be using it, so it would make his conection very slow. espeically when loading pages.

Question 3 (c)

Relatively few candidates gained the marks for this question.

There was a question in June 2011 that asked candidates to provide three examples of online communities. It is possible that some had this in their mind when attempting a response to this question.

(c) Michael and Ryan are members of a team. The team uses an online workspace to work collaboratively to review a previous event.

Give **three** ways the team could use an online workspace to work collaboratively.

(3)

1 Video Conferencing

2 VOIP

3 Instant messaging

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response does enough to gain all three marks.

1 they could use social networking sites
like facebook /twitter
2 they could ~~use~~ use wiki's to help
organise themselves
3 they could send e-mails to each other

Question 3 (d) (i)

Most candidates gained one mark for this question.

(d) Michael uses his tablet computer to watch TV online.

(i) State **two** benefits to Michael of online TV.

(2)

1 it is Portabale so he can tike it anywere

2 also he can watch it for free

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response did not gain either of the two available marks.

The first part does not mention 'within range' and is therefore factually inaccurate. The second part is also not accurate, as there are many costs involved in order to watch online TV.

(d) Michael uses his tablet computer to watch TV online.

(i) State **two** benefits to Michael of online TV.

(2)

1 He can watch any programme any time.

2 He can pause it if he wishes, whereas you cant do that on using normal TV.

(ii) Michael connects his tablet computer to a television.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained both marks.

(Although no mark was gained for 'can watch any programme', this response gained the first mark for stating that programmes can be watched 'anytime').

Question 3 (d) (ii)

Most candidates gained the mark on this question for stating that the screen was bigger on a television.

> (ii) Michael connects his tablet computer to a television.
>
> Give **one** benefit to Michael of doing this.
>
> (1)
>
> You could view all of your files on the television.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Although this response is true, the response does not provide a direct benefit to Michael of doing this.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This answer could have been improved by stating how viewing files on the television could have positively affected Michael, rather than simply stating that it was possible.

Question 3 (d) (iii)

Where candidates failed to gain marks, it was often as they had drawn a connection between the "Line Out" connectors on both devices, and/or the "Line In" connectors on both devices.

(iii) The images on this page show the connectors for the tablet computer and the television.

Draw **two** lines to show the connections needed to play audio **and** video on the **television**.

(2)

Tablet computer connectors

| S-Video | Power | Line In | Line Out | VGA | USB | Firewire | Media Card | Security cable |

Television connectors

| Security cable | SCART | Line In | Line Out | Optical In | VGA | Power |

ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A correct response.
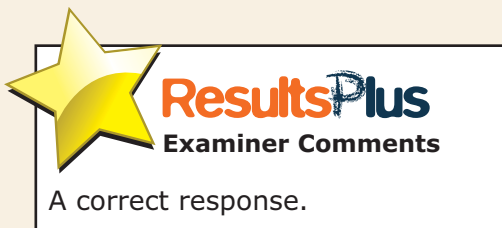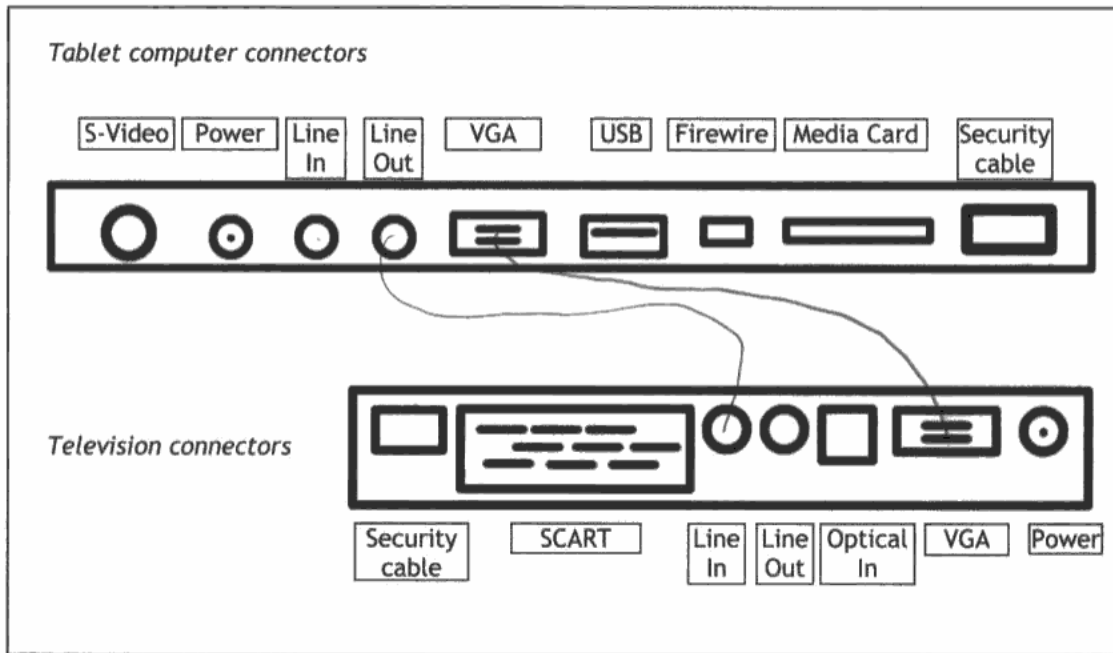
Question 3 (e)

Very few candidates gained the mark for this question. The majority of responses failed to state much more than not being able to watch outside of the country that the programme was made in.

(e) Michael opens a TV programme on a website hosted in his home country.

He sees this notice:

> We are sorry, but this programme is region restricted

State how the website prevents viewers in other countries from watching the programme.

(1)

It uses the information in your I.P ~~address~~ address to record where you are, if you are not within the websites country, it will disallow you to wootch the video.

(Total for Question 3 = 16 marks)

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Examiner Comments

This response gained the mark. It shows good understanding of IP address filtering.

Question 4 (b) (i)

Most candidates gained the mark for this question.

(i) State why he might use Bluetooth rather than infrared for this transfer.

(1)

Bluetooth has a higher range so the health monitor does not have to be so close and Bluetooth has a higher transfer speed.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gains the mark for 'higher range'.

Although not required, notice how the candidate has expanded upon this, by providing an associated benefit.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

You may benefit from providing expansions and explanations, even when answering 'state' questions.**However**, you must be aware of the time it takes to do this. You should plan your time effectively, so you can attempt all questions.

(i) State why he might use Bluetooth rather than infrared for this transfer.

(1)

Because it is faster than infrared.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response does just enough to gain the mark.

Question 4 (b) (ii)

Most candidates gained at least one mark on this question, often by referring to 'distance between devices'. However, a large number did not gain both marks, with a significant number of responses referring to 'file size' or

'strength of connection'.

(ii) Give **two** factors that might affect the speed of the transfer.

(2)

1 the file size of the data

2 how far apart the devices are

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The first part of this response did not gain the mark and was a common incorrect response.

The second part of this response was also common, but did gain the mark.

Question 4 (b) (iii)

Most candidates failed to gain the second mark for this question. They often referred to 'encoding/randomises' or 'unauthorised users not access data/authorised users can read it', but did not often link these responses.

(iii) Michael encrypts the data to send it securely to the team.

Explain how encryption helps keep data secure.

(2)

encruption transfers data into a secret code and can only be transferred back into its original context by whoever has the key for it.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response demonstrates an understanding of how encryption encodes data (for the first mark) and how only authorised users may access it (for the second mark).

Question 4 (c)

Most candidates gained one or two marks for this question. Where both marks were gained, responses referred to 'authentication' / 'verification' and also provided a (linked) reason.

(c) On the day of the marathon, Michael checks in with the event staff and shows them this security pass:

PASS ◯ 2012

A member of the event staff scans the barcode.

Explain why the security pass includes Michael's photograph.

(2)

A barcode is easily forged and could be stolen by anyone to gain access to the event. With a photo, it's more difficult for someone unwanted to get into the event; the photograph verifies that you are the person described on the barcode.

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Examiner Comments

An exemplary response, showing excellent understanding of the need for authentication, as well as the security issues that arise when storing personal information digitally.

Question 4 (d)

On average, candidates gained one mark for this question. They sometimes failed to gain the second mark as they gave responses relating to 'his location' / 'where he's going'. '[H]is team can monitor his location' was already given in the question and, additionally, candidates may have missed the key word in the question: 'calculated'.

(d) Michael wears a GPS device so his team can monitor his location during the marathon.

State **two** pieces of information that could be calculated using GPS data.

(2)

1 his speed

2 his distance from the finish / start of the race.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained both marks.

Sometimes, candidates repeated themselves; often by stating 'Distance from the start' in the first part of their response and then 'Distance from the finish' in the second part. This would only gain one mark, as 'Distance' is the information calculated, and therefore the candidate cannot gain a second mark for stating it twice. The candidate has perhaps realised this, stating 'distance' from finish/start on the same line and stating a different piece of information ('speed') for the second mark.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Note how this answer provides two **different** pieces of information that could be calculated. 'Speed' is different to 'Distance' and therefore the student has not repeated themselves.

(d) Michael wears a GPS device so his team can monitor his location during the marathon.

State **two** pieces of information that could be calculated using GPS data.

(2)

1 the coordinates of a picture taken.

2 the names of and locations of areas around.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

General uses for GPS, such as the ones listed in this response, did not gain any marks.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

You should consider the context of the question and provide responses related to it. In this case, responses about the use of GPS for this particular activity were required to gain marks.

Question 4 (e)

Most candidates gained at least one mark for this question. A significant number of responses referred to being able to identify location from GPS data but failed to gain the second mark for mentioning a linked risk.

(e) Some social networking services also use GPS data.

Explain how the irresponsible use of GPS data could place social network users at risk.

(2)

The irresponsible use of GPS may place social network users at risk as people may find out the location of social network users and so they may be in risk of people finding out where they live, which may lead to criminal offences such as kidnapping, bullying etc.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response gained both marks.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

When answering 'Explain' questions, you should **E**xpand or **E**xplain your answer using linked **E**xamples or **R**easons.

For 'Explain', Use your **EEER**s! (**E**xpand / **E**xplain with **E**xamples / **R**easons).

Question 4 (f)

On average, responses to this question were placed in mark band two. 'Costs' and 'connectivity issues' were frequently covered. Although many candidates gained five marks, few gained full marks. This was sometimes due to minor factual inaccuracies, but more usually due to the repetition of points, preventing them from gaining marks for providing a wide range of considerations.

*(f) Ryan and Michael take their personal digital devices with them when they travel to international competitions.

Discuss what they need to consider if they wish to use their devices when they are away from home.

(6)

There are many devices including: mobile phones, laptops, video cameras that they would like to take away from on their travel. If they want to take their mobile phone they need to consider the Network Band it provides as mobile phones work on different Network Bands (~~dua~~ Dual-quand, tri-band, quad band) in different countries as different countries use different frequencies. If they take their laptop they need to consider weight as if it is too heavy they would find it difficult to carry around. They would also need to consider the internet connection they would get and roaming charges. Furthermore if they want to take photos ~~may~~ with a camera they need to consider resolution and whether they can upload photos onto a social networking site using bluetooth etc. They would need to consider RAM, Processing speed ~~of~~ and storage of their laptops and other devices. They would need to consider the connections available abroad and also battery life of computers and devices as it battery life is low, they would continuously need to be encarged. Also the bandwidth and latency is important as high bandwidth and low latency is needed to play computer games.

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Examiner Comments

Content: The candidate has suggested a range of considerations. All are relevant to travelling away from the home and all are factually accurate.Therefore, it is appropriate to award this response within level 3, initially.

Discussion: The points include examples and explanations (they are clearly 'justified'). Therefore, this response is top of level 3 (6 marks)

QWC: as the mark is at the top of a mark band, QWC needs to be considered. Although there are minor inaccuracies, it would not be appropriate to reduce the mark based on so few errors. The descriptor is 'considerable accuracy' not 'completely accurate'. Therefore, the response meets the QWC descriptor for Level 3 and the mark is not adjusted.

Consequently, the response gained all 6 marks.

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Examiner Tip

Allow yourself time to plan your answer to the extended questions.

*(f) Ryan and Michael take their personal digital devices with them when they travel to international competitions.

Discuss what they need to consider if they wish to use their devices when they are away from home.

(6)

Both Michael and Ryan should consider putting a security number or password on their phone, so if a hacker gets hold of it, they won't be able to use their phone and go through the personal files. Another thing they should do is switch off their GPS technology if they have it on so no one can track where they are and stalk them. Also, if they are away from home they should consider roaming so they don't have to use not only their pay for the network they are on which will cause them to pay a lot. They should also keep their personal details such switch Bluetooth off which could leave people can get hold of their files. Another thing is that if they want to use their devices away from home then they should take a battery charger with them just in case their battery life goes from their devices. Also, they can set up a voice activation so their phone knows can automatically open for them.

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Examiner Comments

Content: The candidate has suggested a range of considerations. Most are relevant to travelling away from the home. Most responses are factually accurate. Therefore, it is level 2.

Discussion: The points include examples and explanations (there is a limited 'attempt to justify' them). Therefore, this response is top of level 2 (4 marks).

QWC: as the mark is at the top of a mark band, QWC needs to be considered. The response meets the QWC descriptor for Level 2 and therefore, the mark has not been reduced.

Question 5 (b)

Candidates often gained marks for this question by mentioning that a podcast is an 'audio/video' file that is available 'online'. However, their understanding of this type of 'on demand' entertainment service was not obvious.

(b) The interview is used for a podcast.

Describe what a 'podcast' is.

(2)

A podcast is an audio file uploaded onto the internet. It can then be downloaded and put onto digital devices such as an mp3 player.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response that gained both marks.

(b) The interview is used for a podcast.

Describe what a 'podcast' is.

(2)

A p something that is broadcasted which you can view in your own personal time.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This response does not show enough understanding to gain a mark.

(b) The interview is used for a podcast.

Describe what a 'podcast' is.

(2)

where everyone can her it on the
Radio Station.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Some candidates tried to relate their responses to the context (the recording of an interview), but did not show enough understanding of 'on demand' entertainment services.

Question 5 (d)

Candidates often did not gain marks for this question because they did not provide **causes** of unequal access. Instead, responses often included examples of the types of things people without access to ICT would lack ('internet connection' 'no equipment').

(d) Some people cannot access the podcast.

State **two** causes of unequal access to ICT.

(2)

1 lack of money to buy technology therefore less access to ICT.

2 Cultures or religions may dissuade use of technology therefore causing lack of ICT skills which will prevent them from accessing or properly using ICT.

(e) Michael uses a search engine to choose an image to go on his blog.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An exemplary response that mentions: 1) Financial restrictions 2) Cultural/Religious restrictions and 3) Lack of skills. This does more than enough to gain the 2 marks available.

(d) Some people cannot access the podcast.

State **two** causes of unequal access to ICT.

(2)

1 The elderly may be less aware of technology and how to use it, due to a generational digital divide

2 Poor people or those in less-developed countries may not be able to afford ICT devices and technology.

(e) Michael uses a search engine to choose an image to go on his blog.

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Another excellent example, which gained both marks.

Question 5 (e)

Candidates frequently gained the first mark when mentioning that permission was needed from the copyright holder/owner, in order to use the image. However, responses frequently failed to mention from whom permission must be sought, thereby restricting the awarding of marks. It was less likely that candidates would gain the second mark, as responses often stated that copyright images cannot be used, which is factually inaccurate.

(e) Michael uses a search engine to choose an image to go on his blog.

Explain Michael's legal responsibilities when using images.

(2)

He has to make sure that there's no copy rights on the photo and that nobody owns the photo.

(f) Michael moderates comments on his blog.

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It was clear from their responses that copyright is an issue that many candidates do not fully understand.

(e) Michael uses a search engine to choose an image to go on his blog.

Explain Michael's legal responsibilities when using images.

(2)

He may copyright the picture.

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Another typical incorrect response.

Candidates must have a clearer understanding of issues such as copyright and should be able to articulate it clearly.

Question 5 (f)

Few candidates gained marks for this question because responses did not mention that the reason for moderating is to provide a method to filter out, or delete comments. Responses that, for example, only stated 'Offensive comments' or 'In case anyone says anything inappropriate', often did not provide enough detail to gain the mark, therefore.

(f) Michael moderates comments on his blog.

Explain why he does this.

(2)

incase Someone to posts Something inappropriate which he can remove.

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This response gained both marks, as it mentions both the fact that some comments can be inappropriate and (crucially to the award of marks on this question) that moderation provides a way for such comments to be removed.

(f) Michael moderates comments on his blog.

Explain why he does this.

(2)

To see what kind of opinions people have, and to also see the type of audience he has

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Responses such as this one (or similar responses related to gaining feedback) were irrelevant to the question, which was about moderation and responsible use of online communities and therefore did not gain marks.

Question 5 (g)

Candidates often failed to gain marks on this question, frequently providing responses that mentioned 'tags' in relation to their use with photos/content on social network sites.

Occasionally, candidates would not gain marks as their responses appeared to refer to geo-tagging.

(g) Michael tags his blog posts.

Explain **one** benefit of this feature to blog users.

(2)

They know where he is if they want to follow him.

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Candidates must know about a wide range of online communities, beyond those that they may frequently use themselves (such as social networking sites).

Question 5 (h)

On average, candidates gained two of the available six marks for this question. There were many responses that gained marks in mark band two. However, fewer responses gained marks from mark band three.

Although it was the final question on the paper, it was pleasing to note that this question was attempted by many candidates, and many showed evidence of planning. Some were able to give good examples of both positive and negative impacts, however, the majority only discussed positive impacts. As in Q4f, candidates did not always offer more than a minimum of examples, many opting to simply restate the given quotation, discussing speed and availability. Although some responses contained general knowledge statements, a number discussed recent world political events and/or the role of the internet in the UK riots of 2011.

*(h) "Anyone in the developed world can publish anything anytime, and the instant it is published, it is globally available and readily findable" (Shirky, 2008: 71)

Discuss the impact of the internet on the use of news and information services.

(6)

The internet has had a very big impact on news and information services. Because of the internet more people can get updated on local, international and global news. You can also find things about current affairs in the government. People can gain more knowledge from going on the Internet and the world is becoming more developed and globalised. As the internet connects so many countries, people can find out what's happening in every corner of the world. Unfortunately, this is where the digital divide can get worse. People who don't have access to computers are left out of all this knowledge and can become unaware and ignorant of whats going on. People can get hold and copy and spread information as soon as it comes out. This can be a big problem with celebritey's, politics and normal people. Once something has been posted on the internet it is very hard to delete it and get rid of all evidence of it, some people make mistakes when posting things and they could get into a lot of trouble over it. A lot of the information of the internet is false, and there is no way of knowing whether it is true or not. I think that the Internet is a good place for sharing information and news.

Content: The candidate has suggested a range of impacts. All are relevant to the use of news and information services and all are factually accurate. Positive and negative impacts have been considered.Therefore, it is appropriate to place this response in level 3, initially.

Discussion: The points include examples and explanations (they are clearly 'justified'). Therefore, this response is top of level 3 (6 marks)

QWC: as the mark is at the top of a mark band, QWC needs to be considered. The response meets the QWC descriptor for Level 3 and the mark is not adjusted.

Consequently, the response gained all 6 marks.

*(h) "Anyone in the developed world can publish anything anytime, and the instant it is published, it is globally available and readily findable" (Shirky, 2008: 71)

Discuss the impact of the internet on the use of news and information services.

(6)

Thanks to the Internet, we can now ~~use~~ find out ~~w~~ the latest news from anywhere in world. This means that people without t.v. can access news. The news and information services can reach a wider target audience. News and information services can be used for homework, for a project for school. More people can also find the latest news all over the world, rather than waiting for the local newspaper in the morning or the hourly news updates. ~~News~~ News and informations services can provide an accurate weather reading as they can track your location, saving time. Also most of the news available is free online, while you have to pay for newspapers. More news can be found, this allows ~~m~~ people to know more about other countries. They can also spread the word on disasters happening around the world, so charities can get more donations ~~to help out~~ So they can help out more efficiently. It saves lives. It is also cheaper for companies to post news online, as they save on printing costs. Allowing them to make profits.

(Total for Question 5 = 18 marks)

Paper Summary

In order to improve their performance, candidates should:

allocate time to plan the two 6 mark extended questions;

continue to develop the good practice of expanding and explaining their answers using examples and reasons, where more than a simple statement or list is required;

answer the question with the scenario in mind;

where more than one example is required, ensure that they do not repeat responses within their answer, but provide examples that are different;

look for keywords in the question to ensure their responses reflect the requirements of the question.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx

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