

Examiners' Report

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE ICT (4385) Paper 1F

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General Comments

There was an extremely low entry for the paper this series. Candidates mainly provided full answers to the questions and one word answers were avoided which is a good practice to see.

Feedback on Candidate Responses

Q1

Well liked by candidates, scores were mainly three out of the available four marks. Candidates did not recognise the fact that a networked computer could be connected to the internet.

Q2

Most candidates scored two of the available four marks. Candidates failed to realise the main purpose of the video card. In Q2(b) good answers were given by candidates gaining the full two marks for this section. In Q2(c), poor scores as candidates had difficulty in distinguishing the main features of LCD and CRT monitors.

Q3

Q3(a) Good scores by most candidates, spreadsheets were popular with this group. In Q3(b) candidates could easily recognise were the SUM function was placed. In Q3(c) only the better candidates could identify the cells that changed when B10 value was altered. In Q3(d) candidates tended to lose a mark by not including the '=' sign with the formula. In Q3(e) candidates tended to try and guess the correct formula and usually guessed incorrectly.

Q4

Q4(a) Most candidates were unable to explain the difference between a model and a simulation. In Q4(b) the stronger candidates scored two of the available three marks usually for being cheaper than using a crowd and safer than using a crowd. In Q4(c) candidates gave poor response and most left this blank.

Q5

Quite a lot of confusion between benefits for owners and benefits for customers. Some of the stock answers were given related to advantages of web compared with mail order and web compared to shop visit. In Q5(c) candidates mostly scored two marks for using mail shots and advertising on other web sites

Q6

Answers by candidates were polarised in this question. If they understood the diagram a high score was gained. If they did not understand the diagram few marks were gained.

Q7

Responses to this question were similar to Q6. If a candidate understood flow charts they scored well otherwise they tended to guess and usually got it wrong

Q8

Q8(a) This is the first section in the common section of the paper and was poorly answered by foundation candidates, usually scoring three of the available nine marks for recognising the field type.

Q8(b) Candidates mainly scored two of the available four marks and answered generally referred 'length checks' for items and 'format checks' for cost

Q9(a)

This was poorly answered by foundation candidates. Mostly one mark awarded for a flash card being smaller but could not expand on the answer. There were no answers related to power required or the fact there was no moving parts involved.

Q9(b)

No correct responses given to this question.

Q10

Q10(a) Good answers given by candidates. Candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of safe working practice with ICT equipment. In Q10(b) candidates were confused by the terms 'environmental factor'. Answers given tended to be a repeat of those given in Q10(a)

Q11

Q11(a) Good answers given here. Candidates demonstrated the ability to differentiate between LAN and WAN networks. In Q10(b), foundation candidates answers were limited to Video cameras and microphones with little or no expansion.

Q12

Foundation candidates generally gained three of the available six marks for answers related to 'out of date information' and 'too much information'. Some candidates gave virus as a problem despite the fact this was in the question.

Q13

Q13(a) and Q13(b) Foundation candidates were unable to give any satisfactory answers related to 'strong passwords'. Marks were scored in Q13(a)(ii) by giving standard password related answers.

Grade Boundaries - November 2009

	C	D	E	F	G	U
Overall Boundary 1F, 3A and 3B	49	43	37	31	25	-

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