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# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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<p><b>Paper 0418/01</b> <b>Written Paper 1</b></p>
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## **General comments**

It was pleasing to see on this second year of the examination that so many candidates had done so well. Once again, Examiners offer congratulations to the candidates and their teachers for all the hard work which must have been put in to achieve these results. Once again, many candidates gained more than half marks. The areas of weakness shown by a number of candidates involved the use of computer control and, to a lesser degree, measurement. There was a marked improvement in the understanding of screen turtle programming and also types of sensors.

Unfortunately, there is still a tendency by a number of candidates to give 'brand names' when asked to describe the use of software such as presentation software. The use of brand names gains little credit and should be discouraged.

## **Comments on specific questions**

### **Question 1**

The majority of candidates got full marks for this question with the main incorrect answer being mouse instead of tracker ball.

### **Question 2**

Most candidates answered this correctly with the main incorrect answer being scanner instead of plotter.

### **Question 3**

Most candidates gained two marks

### **Question 4**

Many candidates gained full marks with incorrect answers being spread amongst all the options.

### **Question 5**

Many candidates gained four marks but often failed to include the final turn to get the pointer to point upwards.

### **Question 6**

Most candidates gained both marks.

### **Question 7**

Most candidates gained the first two marks but some failed to get both marks for the second part. A number suggested using a comfortable chair which would not necessarily prevent back strain from developing.

### **Question 8**

The vast majority of candidates gained the mark in **(a)** but failed to get the mark in **(b)** with a number of variations of formulae being tried. A number of candidates guessed at the correct term using phrases like 'least number'.

### Question 9

Many candidates struggled with this question. A number of candidates thought that a logical or yes/no field would be suitable for **(a)(ii)**.

Candidates tended to give various possibilities for **(b)** with most being wrong. Those who answered with a range check usually went on to describe it in good detail.

### Question 10

Many candidates gained 3 marks for part **(a)**.

For part **(b)** many gave an acceptable answer.

For part **(c)** a number failed to give the correct answer despite getting **(b)** correct. Modem was a popular incorrect answer.

For part **(d)** the majority gained 2 marks but some candidates thought that a weather station would predict the weather whilst others thought that it would lead to unemployment.

### Question 11

The vast majority of candidates gained full marks for this question.

### Question 12

The answers to this question were very mixed. Most answered correctly for the input but were often unsure of what the exact output was. Many candidates failed to answer clearly as to what the processing would involve. Answers were very vague.

### Question 13

Most candidates gave at least one correct advantage and one correct disadvantage. A number of candidates seemed unable to appreciate that in terms of reading a chapter of a book there are very few advantages of a CD over a book particularly in speed of reading. The advantages come from being able to search a CD for information quicker than if you tried to find an exact phrase in a book. A number of candidates thought that it was impossible to damage a book.

### Question 14

The vast majority of candidates did well on this question. In **(a)** most candidates gained at least 2 out of the 3 marks.

In **(b)** many candidates managed to gain all three marks.

In **(c)** most gained at least one mark. Many candidates did not get a second mark as they just gave one word answers.

### Question 15

Most candidates answered part **(a)** correctly. Those who did not answer **(b)** correctly generally gave answers such as name whereas the nature of the situation required a uniquely identifying item to be given such as a student number. In part **(c)** not many candidates gained all three marks. Many gained marks for suggesting that students could get their friends to swipe them 'in' and suggesting that students could lose their cards whereas fingerprints would negate this.

### Question 16

Many candidates answered this question well gaining credit for mark scheme answers. Some candidates gave answers which would be true of other methods such as being able to send goods abroad. A number tended to write about viruses and hacking rather than answer the question.

### **Question 17**

Part (a) was answered well but part (b) provided a number of problems. Some candidates insisted on using brand names which gains no credit and also thought that you could use the insert graph facility but this requires you to enter the numbers afresh rather than using the existing chart.

### **Question 18**

A small number of candidates confused streetlights with traffic lights. Although no candidate was disadvantaged by this, it was noticeable that candidates had great difficulty explaining either system. Many do not appreciate that in control systems sensors are being monitored continuously; they seem to think that they only 'switch on' when certain events happen. Many candidates failed to identify the role of the microprocessor in this control system thinking that the sensor was controlling the activity.

<p><b>Paper 0418/02</b> <b>Written Paper 2</b></p>
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### **General comments**

Candidates showed a marked improvement in this year's paper. Although candidates still found this paper a lot more difficult when compared with Paper 1, the gap between the two was less marked. A greater understanding of the wider scope of applications used in questions on this paper was shown by most candidates. Teachers are to be congratulated in getting to grips with this paper so quickly. However, as with last year, an apparent lack of familiarity with some aspects of Systems Analysis was demonstrated by a number of candidates and the lack of understanding of control systems in the 'outside world' was noticeable.

### **Comments on specific questions**

#### **Question 1**

This was very well answered by all candidates but 'Touchpad' was a frequent answer by those who failed to gain both marks.

#### **Question 2**

This was well answered by the majority of the candidates.

#### **Question 3**

This was well answered generally but a number gave 'Faster cars are produced'.

#### **Question 4**

Most candidates gave the four correct answers but a small number seemed to think that formatting your hard disc would get rid of viruses.

#### **Question 5**

A number of candidates confused analysis with evaluation and validation with verification.

#### **Question 6**

This was well-answered generally. The lower likelihood of viruses and faster access were popular for advantages and damage to the CD Rom being a commonly answered disadvantage.

**Question 7**

- (a) Generally well answered.
- (b) Most gave the required answer although a number of candidates appeared to be confused and gave the answer 'serial' or 'sequential'.
- (c) Many candidates did not answer this question well. Some candidates gave inappropriate validation checks. A number of candidates who gave acceptable checks then gave a field which would not be suitable for the check.
- (d) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (e) Most candidates gained both marks.

**Question 8**

- (a) Generally candidates scored well but failed to gain the mark for use of the screen space and often concentrating on the books being borrowed rather than the customer details.
- (b) Most gave the required answers although some failed to give the required comparing with the original.
- (c) A number of candidates thought that a tape device of some sort would be appropriate, ignoring the requirement for fast access and updating. Not as well answered as other questions.
- (d) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (e)(i) This was poorly answered by most candidates. Very few seemed to know the difference.  
(ii) This was answered a lot better than expected. Teachers are obviously teaching this topic well.
- (f) Most candidates were able to name the two types of documentation but struggled when it came to identifying the contents of either.

**Question 9**

- (a) Most candidates were unable to explain why the light sensor might not be appropriate but were able to write about the unsuitability of the sound sensor.
- (b) Most were unable to name the appropriate sensor and those that did failed to be able to describe its use.

**Question 10**

- (a) Many candidates realised that an account number was stored, but a large number gave 'customer name' and 'amount of money in account' as answers.
- (b) Generally well answered.

**Question 11**

Both parts of the question were well answered.

**Question 12**

- (a) Candidates were able to give one good example but struggled to give a second.
- (b) This was well answered for one mark but very few made two points.

### Question 13

- (a) Many candidates failed to understand what is involved in an expert system. A number of candidates were able to describe analysis and design but failed to apply this to an expert system. Some candidates went further and described the full system life cycle which was not required by the question.
- (b) Well answered.

### Question 14

This question was not as well answered as expected. Many candidates seemed preoccupied with viruses and hackers. Very few actual comparisons were made.

<p><b>Paper 0418/03</b> <b>Practical Test</b></p>
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### General comments

The general performance of candidates in this examination was very good, with many scoring high marks, although a full spread of marks was experienced, and the paper performed well.

Many candidates who performed very well on the more complex questions on the paper often made simple errors, like failing to check the accuracy of the data entered into the document or the new records added to the database.

### Comments on specific questions

#### Questions 1 - 4

This section of the paper was generally well done with the majority of the candidates answering the questions correctly. Uncorrected typing errors in the address were evident in a small number of scripts. The most common error was the failure to attach the required file to the e-mail message.

#### Question 6

A significant number of candidates in some Centres did not set the page size to A4. These candidates need to be aware that having A4 paper in the printer does not lead to the document in A4 format with the correct margin settings and this also needs to be set up using the page setup area of the specific software used. If the settings within the operating system (windows) environment or within the applications package (office) setup have been set to a different paper size (like Letter) then these default settings must be over-ridden in the page setup area of the applications package in order to ensure that the page size/margins appear as specified.

#### Question 9

This question seemed to cause many problems for the candidates. Several candidates left the margin settings to the default settings of the machines within the Centre, and many may have had erroneous settings because of the default page sizes (see notes on **Question 6** above). Even making allowances for paper feed errors, a significant number of candidates did not get this question correct.

#### Question 11

A significant number of candidates failed to fully justify the text in this question.

### **Questions 15-16**

A number of candidates failed to set bullet points to the list given in the question paper, or to indent the bulleted text the required 3 centimetres.

### **Question 21**

There were a number of errors in this question. Many candidates had added the data but failed to check its accuracy before progressing to the next question.

### **Question 23**

There were a number of errors in this question. On the whole the search and sort were completed accurately, however, many candidates failed to ensure that the contents of all the fields were visible.

### **Question 25**

There were a number of errors in this question. A number of candidates failed to produce the correct search and many candidates either omitted or failed to complete the sorting of this data on the Density field.

Many candidates failed to use a calculated control (or calculated cell for those using Excel) to work out the average Energy value. Candidates were not penalised for format or decimal places shown in this calculated control, but still only a few managed to complete this question correctly.

Many candidates failed to place their name in the specified place on the page, which in Access meant some simple manipulation in the design view of the report.

### **Question 27**

There were a number of errors in this question. A number of candidates failed to produce the correct search, many including Puerto Rico in the results as they had completed the OR element of the search but not the AND portion. A number of candidates either omitted or failed to complete the sorting of this data, several Examiners noted that this was one of the most common errors. Some candidates had too many fields present when they imported this report into the final document in **Question 40**.

### **Question 30**

The vast majority of candidates removed the page break, a small number failed to do so.

### **Question 37**

In general the placing and layout of the table was good, however the accuracy of the data entry, in terms of spelling and capitalisation was weak for a small number of candidates. These errors should have been spotted as part of the proofreading in **Question 41** as well.

### **Question 38**

There were a number of candidates who produced images that were unrelated to 'construction or building'.

### **Question 39**

Several candidates failed to resize the image as required by the question. Many images were placed but not enlarged (maintaining their aspect ratio) to fill approximately a quarter of the page, despite being given a diagram on the question paper to help them.

### **Question 42**

The spell checking and proofreading should only check that the candidates have introduced no errors into document, the papers are set in UK English settings, if alternative dictionaries are used with the spell checking facilities candidates may find some discrepancies, if the errors are within the original source documents then the candidates should assume that the spelling is correct. Candidates should be checking for errors that they have introduced to the document or database.

<p><b>Paper 0418/04</b> <b>Practical Test</b></p>
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**General comments**

Many candidates found the data analysis section difficult, many others found the website authoring section difficult. Some candidates failed to printout the html code for the website authoring, or the formulae for the data handling. In both cases it was impossible to award many marks to the candidates without the evidence of their structure and syntax.

Despite this the paper gave a wide diversity of marks, some excellent, most average and some poor.

**Comments on specific questions**

***Data Analysis***

**Question 1**

Some candidates failed to create a data model like that specified on the question paper. Positioning of the tables and correct data entry were important elements that were sometimes omitted by candidates.

**Question 2**

A large number of candidates failed to name the cells as specified.

**Question 3**

This question led to a considerable number of different errors from the candidates using a variety of different (and often incorrect) variations of the IF statement.

**Question 4**

A significant number of candidates transposed the two values to obtain negative totals for each order.

**Question 5**

This step was well done by the vast majority of candidates.

**Question 6**

This question was the one most candidates failed to complete correctly within this section of the paper. Many used the COUNT function rather than the COUNTA (in Excel) and consequently either obtained no total or failed to use the Company column as specified on the question paper.

**Questions 7-9**

These steps were well done by the vast majority of candidates.

**Question 10**

A significant number of candidates did not produce the required formulae printouts, several tried to write the appropriate formulae into other cells formatted as text to try and demonstrate this skill.

**Question 11**

Data entry contained errors in a significant number of cases, candidates did not proofread their work or correct the spelling/typing errors that they had introduced during the copy typing.

**Question 13**

Several candidates could not filter the data from the given criteria.



## ***Website Authoring***

### **Question 2**

The printouts of the stylesheet were generally correct, yet most candidates failed to ensure its effective application on the webpage.

### **Question 3**

This step was well done by the vast majority of candidates.

### **Question 4**

Quite a few candidates created frames, which is a valid way of answering the question. When printing out the html, many of the candidates only printed out the main frame, forgetting to print the sections for the menu choices and the title.

### **Questions 5-6**

These steps were well done by the vast majority of candidates.

### **Question 7**

A very large number of candidates did not open the file in a new target window called EXTERNAL, many used the default settings of their web authoring package and had not edited this in the html code. There were a significant number of candidates who appeared confused between having an external target window and setting the title of the webpage to be external.

### **Questions 8-12**

These steps were well done by the vast majority of candidates.

### **Question 13**

The majority of candidates failed to ensure its effective application on the webpage.

### **Question 14**

Most candidates failed to convert the SWB4ICO.jpg into a smaller size and then into a more compressed format as a gif file.

### **Question 15**

Many candidates failed to reduce the file SWB4TRD.jpg to 500 pixels wide whilst maintaining the aspect ratio.

### **Question 16**

A number of candidates did not print out any html code with the browser views of their webpages.

## ***Presentation Authoring***

### **Question 1**

The use of the master slide was poorly completed. Many candidates manually placed their name and the date on each page rather than placing it as specified in the master slide. Similarly the clipart image was not always present, when it was not always relevant or appropriate (for example pictures of agriculture or dentistry).

### **Questions 1 and 2**

The colour schemes chosen for this paper allowed for good distinction when printed in black and white. However some candidates used colour selections which made marking more difficult. Candidates must ensure that if the Centre is using a black and white printer the colours selected give suitable contrast.

### **Questions 3-7**

A significant number of candidates failed to enter the heading, subheading, bulleted list and presenter notes without error. There was a lack of careful checking that the typing, alignment, spacing and case used were as specified on the question paper.

### **Question 8**

The production and manipulation of the chart was not well done by many candidates. A significant number included a legend despite a clear instruction in the paper saying 'Do not include a legend'.

### **Question 9**

A number of candidates added a vertical line (as found on last year's paper) rather than the line between the heading and the rest of the slide content.

### **Question 10**

This step was well done by the vast majority of candidates.

### **Questions 11-13**

A significant number of candidates failed to enter the heading, bulleted list and presenter notes without error. There was a lack of careful checking that the typing, alignment, spacing and case used were as specified on the question paper.

### **Question 14**

This step was well done by the vast majority of candidates.

### **Question 15**

A significant number of candidates failed to enter the presenter notes without error. There was a lack of careful checking that the typing, spacing and case used was as specified on the question paper.

### **Questions 16-18**

These steps were well done by the vast majority of candidates.

Several candidates failed to complete the Presentation Authoring section of the paper.