Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2021

Pearson Edexcel International
Award In Primary Computing (JCP11)
Paper 01

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This report is split into two sections: General Comments and Specific Comments. In the Specific Comments, there will be comments about the candidates' responses to the written and coding questions.

GENERAL COMMENTS

This was the second series of the specification of Pearson's International Award in Primary Computing.

There were very few candidates for the specification in this series. Most candidates attempted all questions and the one hour allowed for the examination did not seem to be an issue for most candidates.

The question paper consists of two sections.

Section A – assessed the content of the computer science topics.

Section B – assessed the content of the digital technology topics.

The paper included multiple-choice, closed-response questions and short-open questions.

Section A – Computer Science

Question 1 This was a multiple-choice question.

It was a very well answered question with most candidates achieving the mark.

Question 2 This was a multiple-choice question.

This was not as well answered. A number of candidates incorrectly identified a webcam as an output device.

Question 3 (a) This was not a very well answered question.

Candidates were to complete the gap in the given sentence.

Many used the words phishing or pharming taken from the words given in the box for part (b) without noticing that the sentence did not make sense as a whole i.e. it began with the word 'Social', and the sentence had to make sense when completed.

(b) This was quite a well answered question with many candidates correctly completing the sentence by choosing the word 'pharming'. Some incorrectly chose 'phishing'. Very few chose 'networking'.

Question 4 (a) This was quite a well answered questions with many candidates giving one relevant difference between a password and a pin. In some cases candidates mixed up their answers saying a password was only numbers or a PIN was a mixture of characters.

(b) This was a multiple-choice question that was very well answered with the majority of candidates achieving the mark for correctly identifying biometrics as the method used to secure data and personal information.

Question 5 Candidates were to circle the correct description of the Internet.

This question was not well answered. It seemed that some candidates did not read all of the options, circling 'a global online service' as the correct description of the Internet. An online service is a service that is offered via the Internet not the Internet itself.

Others were confused between the world wide web and the Internet. This was also a weakness found in responses to this topic in the October 2020 paper.

Question 6 This was a multiple-choice question.

The question was very well answered with the majority of candidates correctly identifying that downloading would be the method used to get a copy of a film to watch offline.

Question 7 This was a multiple-choice question.

It was a well answered question with most candidates achieving the mark by correctly identifying copyright as the legislation relevant to the use of images found on a website.

Question 8 Candidates were to give the names of two networks that could be used to connect to the Internet.

Very few candidates repeated the example given in the stem of the question i.e. cable TV, which was good.

However, some candidates did not understand the focus of the question i.e. connecting to the Internet giving LAN and WAN etc. as responses. It was the connection to the Internet that was important e.g. satellite, mobile phone network etc.

Question 9 This was a multiple-choice question.

The question was well answered with many candidates correctly identifying the use of "" would return results with the three words in the order given.

Question 10 Candidates were given two results from a search engine to look at.

(a) Candidates were to give the letter of the result that would be the most reliable.

This question was well answered with many candidates correctly stating that B would be the most reliable result. Some did not give the letter as asked, choosing to write an extract of the result e.g. Earth has 5.5 billion people on it' this was markworthy.

(b) Candidates were to explain one reason why they thought their choice from (a) was the most reliable.

This was not so well answered with approximately a third of candidates not achieving any marks. Of those that did many achieved both of the marks available – where they did not it tended to be because they had not expanded on the reasons e.g. 'B has a current date' without any expansion.

Question 11 Candidates were to complete the sentence by adding a word in the gap.

This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates achieving the mark for adding page or the equivalent.

Question 12 This question related to health and safety issues. The stem gave the example 'people should take regular breaks when using computers'.

Parts (a) and (b) were both relatively well answered, though it was surprising to see the number of candidates who repeated what had been given as the stem of the question for at least one of their answers, many gave it for both of their answers.

Question 13 Candidates were to complete a sentence by adding a word.

This was a well answered question with most achieving the mark.

Question 14 Candidates were to choose a word from the box in order to complete the given sentence about cyberbullying.

This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates achieving the mark.

Question 15 Candidates were to complete the sentence by adding a word into the gap.

This was quite well answered with many candidates correctly identifying that algorithm was the missing word. Some chose to use flowchart, this was markworthy.

Question 16 (a) Candidates were to describe what the flowchart does.

This was not very well answered. It was expected that the candidates would describe the overall purpose of the flowchart i.e. a character is input, the character type is determined, and the character type is displayed.

It is clear that candidates find this area of the specification difficult i.e. the same weaknesses were present in the response for this question as in the response for the equivalent question in the October 2010 paper. Many candidates tend to regurgitate the entire flowchart rather than describing the overall purpose.

(b) Candidates were to identify two variables used in the flowchart.

This was poorly answered. It was clear to see that many candidates do not understand variables and how they are used. Very few candidates managed to achieve one of the two marks.

Common incorrect responses included:

- display the character type
- giving a value for a variable e.g. O
- set character type to letter
- between 1 and 9

(c) Candidates were to complete the given sentence by choosing two words from the box.

This was a well answered question with the majority of candidates achieving at least one of the two marks. The most common mistake was to incorrectly use 'steps' in place of 'sequence'.

Question 17 Candidates were to complete the missing steps in the algorithm.

A number of candidates did not achieve any marks for their answers. Some repeated steps that had already been given. Approximately 50% of those who achieved one mark went on to achieve both marks. Where they did not it tended to be the step relating to calculating the answer that was incorrect or missed out.

Question 18 The scenario was that a program is used to calculate pocket money.

(a) Candidates were to give the data type for weekly pocket money.

This was reasonably well answered, however some of the same mistakes made when identifying variables were repeated here e.g. giving a value as the answer. Other mistakes were relevant in that it was a data type that was given, it was just the incorrect data type e.g. string.

(b) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was also reasonably well answered with a number of candidates correctly identifying the multiplication operator (*) was the correct response.

Question 19 This was a multiple-choice question.

This was a well answered question with many candidates correctly identifying a Boolean data type would have the values true or false. This was much better answered compared to 18(a).

Question 20 The candidates were to complete the flowchart to calculate the average by adding the missing component.

This was not well answered with very few candidates correctly specifying the missing component would calculate the average age or Total Age / Count.

Many copied Total Age = Total Age + Age, left it blank or copied Display Average Age.

This area was also weak in the responses in the October 2010 paper.

Question 21 Candidates were given a flowchart that contained an error.

(a) Candidates were to circle the error.

A number of candidates circled 'Is the Month Name June OR August?', which was correct. This was pleasing to see.

Where the mark was not achieved, candidates tended to:

- circle more than one component
- circle 'Number of Days = 31' or circle 'Number of Days = 30 without realising this would lead to multiple errors rather than one
- circle the Yes or the No
- circle a line

(b) Candidates were to explain the error

Surprisingly this was better answered than (a) with more candidates achieving at least one mark. A number achieved both marks. Candidates tended to realise there was a problem with the months or the number of days even if they did not achieve a mark in part (a).

(c) Candidates were to complete the sentence by choosing a word from the box in order to identify the type of error as logical.

Approximately half of the candidates correctly completed the sentence.

The majority of candidates who did not achieve the mark chose 'digital' as their answer. This is not a type of error.

Question 22 Candidates were to complete a flowchart to validate a book code.

It was pleasing to see how many candidates achieved the full three marks. It was a very well answered question. Very few candidates did not achieve any marks.

Section B – Digital Technology

Question 23 Candidates were to explain one reason why the amount of e-waste is increasing.

Some of the weaknesses found in the responses for a similar question in October 2020 were found here i.e. candidates mistaking e-waste for unwanted data on a digital device. However, there were many very good responses showing clear understanding.

Question 24 This was a multiple-choice question.

The question was very well answered with the majority of candidates able to correctly identify desktop publishing would be used to create a poster.

Question 25 Candidates were to complete a sentence by adding a word from the box.

This was also a very well answered question with most candidates choosing filename as their response.

Question 26 (a)-(d) Candidates were given some text and asked to draw lines to specific examples of formatting.

Overall this was a well answered question. Very few candidates did not achieve at least one mark with two marks being the most common. At times, it was clear that candidates did not realise the sub-numbering section was not centre aligned, choosing that as their example of centre alignment.

Question 27 Candidates were given part of a database table.

(a) Candidates were to circle a field on the table.

This was very well answered with many candidates successfully circling a field name, item of data within the field or field name and its items of data. All were markworthy.

(b) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was also very well answered with many candidates correctly identifying currency would be used as the data type for the price field. It was much better answered in comparison to question 18(a).

(c) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was not well answered with relatively few candidates able to correctly identify =19.99 as the correct choice. £19.99 is not viable search criteria, hence the incorrect choice.

Question 28 Candidates were given part of a spreadsheet.

(a) Candidates were to circle a cell on the spreadsheet.

This was a well answered question with many candidates correctly circling a single cell on the spreadsheet extract.

However, some did not. The candidates who did not achieve a mark did not circle anything or circled an entire row, column, row number or column letter.

(b) This was a multiple-choice question to identify the correct formulae.

This was better answered than 28(a) with many correctly identifying the range used.

Question 29 This was a multiple-choice question to identify the subtraction operator.

This was one of the best answered questions in the paper with very few candidates not achieving the mark.

Question 30 Candidates were given a slide.

(a) This was a multiple-choice question to identify the button.

This was a very well answered question with very few candidates not identifying the button.

(b) Candidates were to identify the external hyperlink by drawing a line to it.

This was not as well answered but there was still many candidates who correctly identified the external hyperlink. Some incorrectly identified a button as the external hyperlink. Whilst the buttons may have included a hyperlink there would be no way of knowing whether they were external links. The only correct answers was the hyperlink that was clearly an external hyperlink.

Question 31 Candidates were given a drawing of a snowman.

(a) Candidates were to complete a sentence by choosing two words from the box to identify what shapes had been used to draw the snowman.

Very few candidates were unable to identify at least one of the shapes used, with the majority identifying both.

(b) Candidates were to describe the steps they would take to put a hat on the snowman using a graphics package.
This was quite a well answered question with nearly half of the candidates achieving both mark. Very few were unable to achieve at least one mark.

Where the marks were not awarded it tended to be because the response was too vague e.g. **draw a hat** without any indication of what shape would be used or how it would be drawn.

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