Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Ocober 2022

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It was good to see that most candidates attempted all questions and the one hour allowed for the examination did not seem to be an issue.

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 for correctly identifying PIN.

Question 2   This was a multiple-choice question.

It was also a very well answered question with most candidates achieving the mark for correctly identifying **the right way to act online**.

Question 3   (a)   Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting a word from the choices given.

Many candidates correctly chose **fear** as their response.

(b)   Candidates were to give one way someone could get help to stop cyberbullying.

The majority of candidates who achieved the mark stated that telling a teacher, parent or appropriate adult could help to stop cyberbullying. Though there were other appropriate responses given too. Where the mark was not achieved it was because the response was too vague. For example, **report** without specifying to whom.

Question 4   Candidates were told a webcam is used to input data and asked to give two other input devices.

Surprisingly less that 50% of candidates could name two others. In some instances, candidates did not achieve both marks as they gave webcam as an input device, and this was already given to them in the question. In other instances, candidates gave output devices as their responses.

Question 5   Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting two words from the choices given.

The question was quite well answered with many candidates achieving the two marks for correctly selecting buzzer and speaker as the two output devices.

Question 6   Candidates were to compete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was extremely well answered with the majority of candidates correctly identifying wireless as the other connection type to transfer data across a network.

Question 7   Candidates were to compete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was quite well answered with well over 50% correctly identifying webpages as the correct missing word.

Question 8   This was a multiple-choice question.

This was quite well answered question with many of candidates achieving the mark for identifying that a blog could be used as an online diary.

Question 9   Candidates were to draw lines between descriptions and items.

This was not a well answered question. Less than 50% of candidates correctly identified that a search engine allows users to find content on the Internet using keywords and that a bookmark is a shortcut for quick access to a web page.

Question 10   Candidates were to explain one way in which playing computer games can damage someone's health.

Over 50% of the candidates achieved at least one mark and approximately a third two marks. Where the second mark was not achieved it tended to be because the candidates had not expanded their response e.g. **people can become less fit** without saying why.

Question 11   Candidates were to compete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was quite well answered with well over 50% correctly identifying that the image is protected by copyright.

Question 12   Candidates were to compete a table by adding a tick next to the most appropriate type of software for the tasks given.

This was not a well answered question. Few candidates achieved 1 mark and even fewer both marks. In many cases the marks were not achieved as brand names were used rather than the **type** of software.

Question 13   Candidates were to compete a table by adding a tick to identify the type of network used for the task given.

This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates correctly identifying that a mobile phone network would be used.

Question 14   Candidates were to explain one reason why Monica might choose to stream a movie to watch on her smartphone rather than download it.

This was not very well answered. Few achieved 1 mark and fewer 2 marks. Again this was down to there being no expansion. For example saying she wants to watch it immediately without saying she would have to wait for it to download as the alternative.

Question 15   Candidates were to draw lines between descriptions and activities.

This was quite a well answered question with very few not achieving at least 1 mark.

Question 16   This was a multiple-choice question.

Surprisingly this was not a well answered question. The majority of incorrect answers were to reduce the amount of paper used. It would seem that some candidates did not read past this perhaps.

Question 17   This was a multiple-choice question.

Approximately half of the candidates correctly identifying the purpose of a variable. This is a common theme across all the papers to date – candidates find it hard to identify variables in a given flowchart or understand their purpose.

Question 18   This was a multiple-choice question.

This was a well answered question with the many candidates correctly identifying that an addition needed to be made.

Question 19   Candidates were to draw lines between data types and values

More than 50% of candidates achieved 1 mark, far fewer both marks. Many who achieved 1 mark but did not achieve the second did not recognise the difference between an integer number and a real number.

Question 20   This was a multiple-choice question.

This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates correctly identifying that a term for breaking a problem down into smaller sub-problem is decompose.

Question 21   Candidates were to compete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was a very well answered with the majority of candidates correctly identifying that a flowchart is a way of describing an algorithm.

Question 22   Candidates were to look at a process and determine the output when the current time is 22:00.

This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates correctly stating that **it is night time** would be the output.

Question 23   Candidates were given a flowchart that contained an error.

(a)   The candidates had to identify one variable.

Around half of the candidates correctly identified either **Stored Password**, **Attempts** or **password** as a variable in the flowchart.

(b)   The candidates were told where the error was and asked to describe the effect of the error.

Very few candidates achieved any marks in the question with answers that were very vague or described the flowchart rather than the effect of the error.

Question 24   Candidates were given a flowchart to complete.

(a)   Candidates had to complete the boxes that were empty.

This was not well answered with around 30% achieving both marks. Many candidates did not make the connection with the sentence describing the flowchart, which was above the flowchart. Many did not seem to realise that the check to see if all passengers were wearing a seat belt was already present either.

(b)   Candidates were told the flowchart used sequence and input and were asked to give the name of one other structural component.

This was not well answered with surprisingly few able to identify that there was a selection or output present.

Question 25   Candidates were given part of a flowchart that was to check whether a letter that was input by the user was a vowel or not.

This was quite well answered by a number of candidates. However, some candidates did not read the question and answer as instructed i.e., adding a letter into the appropriate flowchart boxes. Many completed the steps longhand. This was still markworthy but wasted their time.

Question 26   This was a multiple-choice question.

This was a well answered question with many candidates correctly identifying crop as the tool that would be used to remove part of an image.

Question 27   Candidates were asked to explain one positive environmental impact of the use of technology.

Very few candidates gained marks. Many gave an explanation of a negative impact rather than positive as asked. Where candidates had achieved 1 mark, some did not achieve the second because the answer was not an impact it was the result of an impact or vice versa. For example. Less paper is used. That is not the positive impact, the positive impact is that fewer trees are lost as a result of less paper being used etc.

Question 28   Candidates were given two versions of a document to study.

This was not a well answered question. Over 60% of candidates did not achieve any marks. Those who achieved 1 mark tended to get the mark for the font style being changed. Some said the font size – this had not been changed but was accepted as it could have been perceived as such. No candidates achieved 2 marks. Very few were able to say linespacing or vertical centre alignment.

Question 29   This was a multiple-choice question where candidates were given two versions of a document to study.

This was a well answered question with many candidates correctly identifying that vertical centre alignment was the layout feature used to turn version A into version B.

Question 30   Candidates were to compete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was not well answered at all. Less that 14% of candidates identified that the feature that would be used to change the background colour of a text box was shading.

Question 31   Candidates were given part of a database to study.

(a)   This was a multiple-choice question.

Approximately 30% of candidates achieved the mark for correctly identifying that a table is used to store records in a database.

(b)   This was a multiple-choice question.
This was quite well answered with many candidates correctly identifying that **Attendance %** was the name of a field used.

(c)   This was a multiple-choice question.

Few candidates correctly identified that text was the data type used for the StudentID field and chose number as the data type used. It appears that most did not realise that the data values also included _ along with the numbers.

(d)   Candidates were given a query to compete.

Very few candidates achieved any marks. Most common mistakes was to write the name of the person who had never missed a lesson or miss the % off the end of the field name.

Question 32   Candidates were given part of a spreadsheet to study.

(a)   Candidates were to complete a table to identify which part of a cell reference referred to the column and which part of the cell reference referred to the row.

Over 50% of candidates were able to correctly identify both to gain the mark. Very few did not answer the question which means nearly 50% of candidates do not know the difference between a column and a row.

(b)   This was a multiple-choice question.

This was quite well answered with many candidates identifying the correct formula used to calculate Luciana's total mark.

(c)   Candidates were to give one reason why the teacher should save the spreadsheet with a sensible filename.

Surprisingly less than 40% of candidates could give a reason. Where there was a response, but no mark achieved it tended to be because it was too vague e.g., easier with a reason.

(d)   Candidates had to state the type of software the teacher would use to include part of the spreadsheet in a printed report.

Very few candidates were able to identify a word processor would be used. DTP software was also accepted. Many did not gain the mark as a brand name was given rather than the type of software.

Question 33   Candidates were given the design of a slide to study.

(a)   Candidates were to identify where an external hyperlink and where an internal hyperlink were used by completing a table.

Over 50% of the candidates achieved the mark.

(b)   Candidates were told that one use of a button is to provide navigation using a hyperlink and asked to give one other use for a button.

Very few gained a mark as most candidates who answered the question reiterated that a button could be used to navigate.

Question 34   Candidates were to describe one difference between a transition effect and an animation effect in a presentation.

This was not well answered. Many candidates went off on a tangent describing cartoon animations. Those who answered the question on topic usually managed to achieve at least one mark.