



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (New specification)

SUMMER 2011

Statistical Information

The Examiners' Report may refer in general terms to statistical outcomes. Statistical information on candidates' performances in all examination components (whether internally or externally assessed) is provided when results are issued. As well as the marks achieved by individual candidates, the following information can be obtained from these printouts:

For each component: the maximum mark, aggregation factor, mean mark and standard deviation of marks obtained by *all* candidates entered for the examination.

For the subject or option: the total entry and the lowest mark needed for the award of each grade.

Annual Statistical Report

Other information on a centre basis is provided when results are issued. The annual *Statistical Report* (issued in the second half of the Autumn Term) gives overall outcomes of all examinations administered by WJEC.

UNITS

In this session only units 1 and 2 were available.

- Unit 1 - Understanding ICT
- Unit 2 - Solving Problems with ICT

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (Short Course)

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Summer 2011

Chair of Examiners: Dr. Gwynne Jones

Chief Examiner: Mr. Warren Davies

Principal Moderator: Mrs. Noreen Kay

Unit Statistics

The following statistics include all candidates entered for the unit, whether or not they *cached in* for an award. The attention of centres is drawn to the fact that the statistics listed should be viewed strictly within the context of this unit and that differences will undoubtedly occur between one year and the next and also between subjects in the same year.

GCSE											
				Grade Boundary							
Unit	Entry	Max Mark	Mean Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Unit 1	4922	80	46.8	74	68	61	54	45	37	29	21
Unit 2	3238	80	61.2	74	68	58	48	41	34	28	22

N.B. The marks given above are raw marks and not uniform marks.

UNIT 1 - Understanding ICT

Examination

General Comment

Although there was only one tier the majority of candidates attempted most of the questions.

- Q.1 (a) Well answered by all candidates.
- (b) Most candidates knew that a thesaurus was a feature of DTP used to find a similar meaning for a word.
- (c) Spreadsheet and databases were popular answers.
- Q.2 Very well answered.
- Q.3 This new topic was very well answered by most candidates.
- Q.4 Although this type of question has caused problems to candidates in the past. It was encouraging that many candidates answered all sections correctly.
- Q.5 Again although a similar type question has appeared on previous ICT examination papers it was encouraging that part (d) was correctly answered by many candidates.
- Q.6 Quite well answered.
- Q.7 (a) Well answered.
- (b) Both *Temperature* and *Humidity* conditions in the library needed to be addressed to gain full marks.
- Q.8 (a) Poorly answered.
- (b) Some candidates did not know what VLE stood for. This prevented them from describing two ways students or teachers could make use of a VLE.
- Q.9 (a) Well answered.
- (b) Many candidates gave answers such as '*quicker*', '*easier*' and '*cheaper*' without any qualification.
- Q.10 (a) Well answered.
- (b) Again candidates lost marks by giving vague answers.
- Q.11 Very well answered.
- Q.12 Many candidates gave excellent responses.

UNIT 2 - Solving Problems with ICT

Controlled Task

General Comments

Centres submitted candidate work electronically or on paper. Where submitted electronically, candidates should be encouraged to put work in the correct folder. Moderators should not be expected to spend several hours trying to find candidates work in order to decipher where and why Centre assessors awarded the marks. In future links should be provided to the work for each section.

Moderators appreciated the well presented electronic and printed portfolios.

Centres completed the official WJEC banded mark form but this gave no indication of where the assessors had actually awarded the marks. This meant that moderators had to remark all the work rather than moderate it. In future Centres should indicate where marks have been awarded using the single sheet marking grid provided by WJEC or a Centre's own version of it. Comments from the assessors as to which features marks were awarded for would aid the moderation process.

Candidates should be encouraged to annotate their screenshots and not leave moderators to decipher what is going on.

Despite this being a new type of assessment, and in its first year, most centres marked accurately or within tolerance.

Specific Comments

File Handling

Most Centres provided good evidence but candidates should show the process of backing up onto an external device as some of the screenshots were hard to decipher. Candidates should be encouraged to annotate their screenshots so that assessors and moderators can support the evidence.

Research and Data Collection

Evidence here could be improved. Many candidates only showed the results of their research in a word document. If marks are to be awarded for use of search engines then screenshots of the search in the search engine need to be provided.

Marks for use of a url cannot be given for just showing the result. Candidates need to show it was not the result of a keyword search or clicking on a link. Much benefit of doubt was given in this first year but this may not be applied in future years.

Candidates should be encouraged to annotate their screenshots.

Email

This was generally clear cut but assessors should indicate which process marks were awarded. Candidates should be encouraged to annotate their screenshots not leave moderators to decipher what is going on.

Communicating Information

Formative evaluation: (8 marks)

N.B. These are added to the 7 marks for summative evaluation on the IT2 banded recording sheet.

Own comment on document to improve it	2
Comments from others on document to improve it	1
Evidence of responding to comments in document	1
Own comment on web or presentation to improve it	2
Comments from others on web or presentation to improve it	1
Evidence of responding to comments in document	1

Comments from others and own comments to improve the work

Comments were weak and general but were often given full marks. This is an area which needs to be improved: more in depth comments and suggestions for improvements are required for full marks to be awarded.

Drafts and final documents

There is no requirement to produce hand drawn designs:

- One electronic first draft of a document in sufficient detail to invite detailed comments and one final improved document is all that is needed.
- One electronic first draft in sufficient detail to invite detailed comments and one final improved webpage or presentation is all that is needed.

Electronic draft of a document	1
Final version of document	1
Accuracy and plausibility and fitness for purpose of document	1
Electronic draft of web or presentation	1
Final version of web or presentation	1
Accuracy and plausibility and fitness for purpose of web or presentation	1

This was generally evident.

Basic features

Most features are evident in the final printout but assessors did not indicate which ones they had awarded marks for.

NB

- Insert, crop or resize and position an image fit for purpose needs a before and after screenshot.
- on a web page or in a presentation – 'sequence a set of events' needs a screenshot showing the selected custom animation.

Advanced features

Moderators often had to re-mark because assessors did not indicate where they awarded marks.

NB

- 'Rotation or enhanced manipulation of image' - needs a before and after. Many centres appeared to accept an image which had been rotated without a before shot. On this occasion this was given as benefit of doubt but will not be so in future.
- 'Use a **second** different source for data' - some centres used original animations or sound but evidence of these was not provided.
- Headers or footers must appear on final document if claimed.
- Page numbering on more than one page must appear on final document.

Modelling

This was quite well attempted by most candidates and appeared to be accurately marked. There were not many variations from the example given out at INSET.

Basic features

It was generally well marked by centres but note that to award marks for formulas or relative referencing evidence must be provided in formula view.

What if Investigations

What if investigations need to have a reason for undertaking them and a conclusion.

It is not acceptable to say I am going to change the price without a reason and not have a discussion about the knock on effect.

If candidates do not understand why they were investigating the change of data or formula then they obviously cannot come to any conclusion about the results of their investigations, This is not an editing exercise, it is a set of investigations.

Advanced features

Again it was left to moderators to detect these features. Candidates or assessors should annotate the work to show what they have done.

Data Handling

This was quite well attempted by most candidates and appeared to be accurately assessed. Again centres did not state where marks were awarded and many screenshots had no annotation.

Basic features

This was generally accurately marked but some centres gave the deletion mark when the record was still in the database in electronically submitted portfolios.

Produce lists

Candidates should do the sorts and searches as stated in the Controlled Task. Some candidates did their own versions and yet the centre awarded marks.

Advanced features

The following should have reasons why the data produced as a result of these operations is needed. If there are no stated reasons for the search or sort no marks should be given.

- use logical operators and at least one wild card
- sort on multiple fields.

Please note that the sort on multiple fields is not a single sort on one field.

Evaluation

The marks for the formative evaluation earlier (8 marks) are added to the 7 marks for the summative evaluation on the banded IT2 form. This confused some centres at first

Summative evaluation (7 marks)

Note there are seven marks for this and all seven sections are expected to be covered for full marks. It is recognized that the in depth analysis expected of coursework is not probable in a controlled test situation. However candidates are expected to write more than one brief comment in each section to get the marks.

Much of what was seen this year did not cover all the sections, was very brief and so generally overmarked.

The summative evaluation should cover the following:

- analysis of data and information used in modelling (*data/formulas, graphs*)
- analysis of data and information used in data handling (*keyfield, extra fields and data validation*)
- suggestions for improvements (*modelling and data handling*)
- evaluation of other tools and techniques (*all tasks: Final choice of DTP features / investigations / sorts / searches / etc*)
- review of feedback (*not a repeat of their own evaluation of document / webpage / presentation; what did they accept and why?, what did they reject and why?*)
- analysis of research methods / data collected / data used (Internet/ paper sources/email)
- evaluation of working practice (*data protection/security/health and safety*)



WJEC
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff CF5 2YX
Tel No 029 2026 5000
Fax 029 2057 5994
E-mail: exams@wjec.co.uk
website: www.wjec.co.uk