



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 2013

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.

Annual Statistical Report

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 3 were available.

Unit 1 - Understanding ICT

Unit 3 - ICT in Organisations

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2013

Chair of Examiners: Dr Gwynne Jones

Chief Examiners:

Unit 1 Ms Kathy Butcher
Unit 3 Mr Mark Thomas

Principal Moderator:

Unit 2 & Unit 4 Mrs Noreen Kay

Unit Statistics

The following statistics include all candidates entered for the unit, whether or not they *cashd 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	3218	80	53.8	75	71	66	62	52	42	32	22
Unit 3	444	80	37.0	67	61	55	49	40	31	22	13

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

UNIT 1 - Understanding ICT

Examination

General comments

A well answered paper - most candidates found the paper more accessible than the Summer 2012 examination paper. New topics were introduced and candidates answered them well. Candidates demonstrated good examination techniques and questions were generally well answered.

Comments on individual questions

- Q.1 (a) This question was well answered by candidates. Most candidates selected the correct features of word processing software that had been used.
- (b) Very well answered. Candidates correctly answered the question by stating that Spell Check was the correct answer for correcting the error on the sponsor form.
- (c) This question was fairly well answered, although, as the question eliminated word processing and Email software this was difficult for some candidates. The example of use was not always detailed enough and in some cases quite vague. Database and spreadsheet examples were sometimes mixed up.
- Q.2 (a) Fairly well answered and most candidates gained at least one mark here.
- (b) Candidates answered this question quite well, although the definitions of Email Signature and Address Book were not well answered.
- (c) Well answered. Most candidates were easily able to state a misuse and prevention of email.
- Q.3 (a) Really well answered. Most candidates were familiar with the input and output devices associated with gaming. The tick box format allowed this question to be easily accessible to all candidates and was attempted by all candidates.
- (b) Quite well answered. Advantages and disadvantages of gaming is clearly a topic that candidates have learnt and understood. Common answers for advantages of gaming included - Allows the user to play games with users from all over the world and improves hand/ eye co-ordination.
- (c) Well answered. Candidates clearly have a good understanding of how Bluetooth can be used on mobile phones.
- (d) Fairly well answered, although as the question included the word broadband, many answers seemed to be based around the benefits of broadband compared to dial-up Internet.

- Q.4 (a) Well answered. Candidates mostly gave the correct answer.
- (b) Poorly answered. Candidates showed that they knew the correct terms associated with editing digital photos. However, describing how each feature was used in digital photography proved difficult for most candidates. The feature was mostly repeated in the question e.g. Zoom – to zoom in on the photo and Crop – to crop the photo. Quite disappointing.
- Q.5 (a) Well answered. Candidates could easily give at least one use of a social network.
- (b) Well answered. The Social Networking topic was introduced this January and many candidates were able to identify a danger of social networking.
- Q.6 All sections were very well answered. Candidates could easily list two sensors and were able to correctly identify Data, Information and Knowledge. Candidates also mostly answered how to display information correctly.
- Q.7 Well answered. Most candidates found this section extremely accessible as similar questions have been asked previously. Some candidates did confuse records and fields. To make each record unique was given by the majority of candidates. Candidates did not always achieve full marks for the validation question and even if they correctly identified that a range check could be used they did not explain how (e.g. 1-31) and marks were lost due to this. Some candidates gave the name of the player that would appear at the top of the list and this lost them marks as the question asked for the Player ID.
- Q.8 Quite well answered. Most candidates found this question accessible. Advantages of using a spreadsheet was not always correctly answered. The Line Chart was correctly identified by the majority of candidates.
- Q.9 Well answered by the majority of candidates. Some candidates gave incorrect answers such as obesity and addiction which were not accepted. Also the same prevention was in some cases repeated throughout – e.g. take regular breaks, which could only be accepted once.
- Q.10 (a) This question was poorly answered in most cases with candidates giving personal contact details which had already been ruled out in the question.
- (b) Advantages to both the company and the user were repeated by many candidates. A frequent answer of an advantage to the company of using an online booking system was that they lost money as they did not have to charge a booking fee which was incorrect.
- Q.11 Fairly well answered.
- Q.12 Most candidates were able to name three different electronic methods of registration. Some candidates answers were very detailed and showed an in depth knowledge of the subject and in some cases were well above GCSE standard. The candidates responses to this topic have definitely improved. Some candidates lost marks as they were giving brand names of electronic methods of registration. Spreadsheets and databases were also given as an answer by quite a few candidates, which cannot be accepted.

Unit 3 - ICT in Organisations

Examination

- Q.1 Well answered. Most candidates were able to differentiate between an Input and Output device.
- Q.2 (a) Well answered. Popular answers included Mouse and Touchpad.
- (b) Well answered. Most candidates were able to differentiate between a Bitmap and Vector graphic.
- (c) (i) Quite well answered.
- (ii) Quite well answered, although a number of candidates seemed unfamiliar with the term *optimisation* and as such gave answers such as choosing “more eye-catching images” or choosing “images fit for purpose”
- Q.3 (a) Very few candidates answered all four animation techniques correctly, although many were able to gain 2 or 3 marks.
- (b) Many candidates were able to state that a story board is primarily a plan, however a large number of candidates failed to extend on this giving a full description.
- Q.4 (a) (i) Well answered.
- (ii) Well answered.
- (iii) Generally well answered. Some candidates had difficulty with the statement about an Extranet.
- (b) Very well answered.
- (c) Poorly answered, with Viaduct being a popular answer given for either Switch or Bridge.
- (d) Very poorly answered. Many candidates were unfamiliar with the term *Gateway*.
- (e) Some candidates gave an excellent, extended answer to this question, explaining all 4 stages of automatic stock control using a POS system. Other candidates were able to give 2 out of the 4 stages namely scan barcode and deduct one from stock level.
- (f) Quite well answered. A high proportion of candidates gave “share printer” as an answer, which was given in the question and therefore not accepted. This would suggest that those candidates were unfamiliar with the term *Peripheral*.

- Q.5 (a) Well answered.
- (b) Quite well answered, although some candidates wrote that sound is an encrypted signal as opposed to an analogue.
- Q.6 (a) Some candidates answered this question very well. Others gave incorrect responses such as “checks if data is correct”.
- (b) Some candidates answered this question very well and were clearly familiar with the terms *Hash Total* and *Batch Total*.
- The majority of the candidates however were unfamiliar with these terms and as a result this question was the most poorly answered of the whole paper.
- Q.7 (a) Very well answered.
- (b) Quite well answered. Popular answers included the ability to log data 24/7 and more accurate readings. Some candidates were able to give one advantage of data logging, but struggled to give a valid second advantage.
- (c) Quite well answered, the most popular answer being related to hardware failure.
- Q.8 (a) Candidates struggled with this question, with many giving WIMP as their response, which was given in the question.
- (b) Quite well answered. Popular answers included mobile phone handsets for a Touch Sensitive HCI and the ability to issue commands for Voice Recognition. Some candidates gave proprietary names, such as *Siri*, which was not accepted.
- (c) Quite well answered. Some candidates incorrectly wrote “Command Prompt” which is not accepted as it is a proprietary name.
- (d) Quite well answered. Popular answers included the difficulty of forging biometric properties and that biometric properties cannot be shared. Some candidates were able to give one advantage of Biometrics, but struggled to give a valid second advantage.
- Q.9 (a) (i) Quite well answered. Many candidates incorrectly wrote that people are able to access data held about them, which is true, but not a principle of the DPA.
- (ii) Quite well answered. Many of the candidates failed to give an exemption and instead named the person / organisation that is exempt, for example “police” as opposed to “matters affecting the prevention or detection of crime”
- (b) Well answered.
- Q.10 Question 10 was very poorly answered by most candidates. Although candidates were able to choose their business application from a choice of 3, very few were able to give suitable examples of data collected, method of input and information output. A suitable processing method was a term unfamiliar to almost all candidates.

- Q.11 (a) Quite well answered. Some candidates seemed to confuse *teleworking* with teleshopping or a call centre.
- (b) Many candidates gave an extensive answer discussing the advantages and disadvantages of teleworking to the employee and the employer.

It was noticeable that a number of candidates failed to attempt the question which would suggest that they were unfamiliar with the term teleworking or that they had run out of time to complete the paper.



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