



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 2014

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ICT
General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2014

UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING ICT

EXAMINATION

Chief Examiner: Ms. Kathy Butcher

General Comments

The paper was very well answered by most candidates. New topics were introduced and all questions were generally well answered. Candidates made a good attempt at answering questions and demonstrated very good examination techniques. The examination was marked online for the fifth time and is proving to be an extremely successful and fair method of marking candidate's responses. Candidate's responses were impressive and they have clearly been taught the topics and examination techniques extremely well by teachers.

Comments on individual questions

- Q.1 (a) This question was fairly well answered by almost all candidates, and the correct features of Desktop Publishing software were selected. Candidates are still entering answers such as Bold, Font and Italic on their own. Candidates need to ensure they give full answers such as Bold font and Italic text.
- (b) Very well answered. Candidates correctly identified the correct use for each application. The tick box format for this question made it easily accessible for all candidates.
- (c) This question was sometimes well answered although as it was a new question some candidates didn't correctly identify the technique as Mail Merge.
- Q.2 This question was very well answered by all candidates. Almost all candidates clearly understood the difference between data, information and knowledge.
- Q.3 Many candidates sometimes struggled with this question and many candidates gave uses rather than advantages of GIS. The questions specifically asked for uses of GIS for navigation and occasionally responses were given relating to weather or agriculture which unfortunately could not be accepted.
- Q.4 Most candidates found this question extremely accessible and their knowledge of email was excellent.
- (a) Well answered.
- (b) Well answered by most candidates although some did not mention a time element.
- (c) Well answered – most candidates gained at least one mark here.

- Q.5 (a) Well answered - to make each record unique or similar was given by most candidates.
- (b) Mostly well answered, although some candidates confused ascending order with descending order.
- (c) (i) Extremely well answered.
- (ii) Well answered – candidates understood the format of this question as it has appeared on past papers. Again, some candidates lost marks due to spelling the search criteria incorrectly.
- (d) Well answered.
- (e) Well answered.
- Q.6 (a) Very well answered by all candidates – Friday was correctly identified by almost all candidates as being the data in cell A7.
- (b) Fairly well answered by most candidates.
- (c) Mostly well answered. This was a new question, but the correct response was given by many candidates.
- (d) A line chart was correctly identified by almost all candidates.
- (e) Not as well answered as in previous years – possibly as the question was worded differently and creating graphs had been eliminated from the correct answers as it was in the question.
- Q.7 (a) Extremely well answered.
- (b) (i) Not well answered - many candidates answered with uses such as video conferencing to hold a business meeting or a job interview when the question was related to home entertainment.
- (ii) Very well answered.
- (c) (i) A new question, very well answered by all candidates.
- (ii) Most candidates gained at least one mark here.
- (iii) Very well answered.
- (d) Very well answered by most candidates. Some candidates gave incorrect answers such as obesity, couch potato syndrome and addiction which were not accepted. 'Take breaks' was given as a response by some candidates with no mention of a time element. 'Comfortable chair' was also not accepted as a prevention for back problems.

- Q.8 (a) Not very well answered, candidates gave responses relating to advantages of a VLE rather than specific uses.
- (b) Well answered by most candidates although many responses were seen that related to hardware to allow disabled users to use the computer.
- (c) Extremely poorly answered by most candidates. Some gained one mark on this question, however not many candidates received the full two marks. Responses such as the Internet and virtual learning environment are not classed as an emerging technology. Some very good answers included virtual reality glasses, tablets, educational apps and 3D printing.
- Q.9 (a) Very well answered. Most candidates found this question accessible.
- (b) Very well answered.
- (c) Mostly well answered – however there were a lot of answers relating to validation rather than verification.
- Q.10 (a) (i) Quite well answered by most candidates. Even though ‘movement sensor’ was given as an example answer and therefore could not be given as an answer – this response was seen frequently. Candidates also sometimes gave one word answers for the output e.g. alarm which could not be accepted
- (ii) Poorly answered.
- (b) Quite poorly answered by most candidates.
- Q.11 This question was answered well. Candidates mostly struggled with the first part of the question – finding products whilst on a website, but the majority of candidates gained at least one mark for this part. Candidates were able to give advantages and disadvantages of e-commerce, although some candidates gave advantages and disadvantages to the company and therefore marks were lost here. The quality of written communication was assessed on this question, spelling and grammar was very good and very few candidates lost marks due to incorrect terminology or spelling and grammar. The majority of candidate’s answers were very detailed and showed an in depth knowledge of the topic. The responses for this question were impressive and in some cases well above GCSE standard.

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UNIT 3: ICT IN ORGANISATIONS

EXAMINATION

Chief Examiner: Mr. Mark Thomas

- Q.1 Very well answered. Most candidates were able to name four devices and state whether they are used for either input or output.
- Q.2 (a) Very well answered. Most candidates were able to recognise the difference between vector and bitmap graphics.
- (b) Well answered. Popular answers included making the file size smaller and reducing the number of colours.
- Q.3 (a) (i) Very well answered.
- (ii) Very well answered.
- (b) (i) Well answered. Popular answers included sharing hardware, sharing software and sharing data.
- (ii) Some candidates had difficulty with this question, not fully qualifying their answer. A common incorrect answer included “hacking” – without any further qualification, e.g. more access points so more opportunity to hack a network. Qualification is required as standalone computers can also be hacked.
- (c) Well answered.
- (d) Not well answered. A large number of candidates seemed unfamiliar with the terms *Gateway* and *Bridge*, or in some instances confused the two.
- (e) Quite well answered.
- Q.4 (a) Quite well answered. Popular answers included examples of music editing such as tempo change, enveloping and looping.
- (b) Very well answered.
- Q.5 (a) (i) Most candidates had difficulty gaining full marks in this question, particularly describing the requirement for two key frames when tweening.
- (ii) Some candidates were able to recognise that previous frames were still visible when using the onion skinning technique, but were unable to state that this allowed the animator to track the motion of an object or plan the next frame.

- (b) Not well answered. In particular, a large number of candidates wrote that increasing the frame rate too much would make the animation run smoothly.
- (c) Well answered.
- Q.6 (a) Quite well answered, although few candidates were able to correctly identify all three verification techniques.
- (b) Well answered. A popular incorrect answer given was that validation ensures that data entered is correct.
- (c) Poorly answered. Most candidates seemed unfamiliar with the term *Hash* and *Batch* totals.
- Q.7 (a) Quite well answered, although a large number of candidates failed to name an actual output device and instead gave an output, e.g. “turn heater on” instead of “heater”. These answers were condoned in this session, but will not be accepted in future papers.
- (b) Well answered.
- (c) Poorly answered. Most candidates seemed unfamiliar with the term *Feedback*.
- Q.8 (a) Quite well answered. Some candidates incorrectly wrote that a backup is a physical method of securing data. This was not accepted without further qualification, e.g. storing the backup off-site.
- (b) Well answered, although some candidates struggled to give two non-physical methods.
- Q.9 The most popular application chosen was banking. Most candidates were able to give suitable uses of ICT in their chosen application but a large number of candidates were unable to give two suitable advantages and disadvantages.
- Q.10 (a) Poorly answered. Popular incorrect answers included “spreadsheets”.
- (b) Poorly answered. Most candidates struggled to correctly identify the correct data capture method.
- (c) (i) Well answered.
- (ii) Very poorly answered. Most candidates were unable to give a reason for choosing the batch processing method in the payroll application.
- (d) Well answered. A large number of candidates gave “Employee ID” as their answer.
- (e) Poorly answered.
- Q11 (a) Very well answered.
- (b) Well answered.
- (c) Well answered.

Q12 Many of the candidates were able to give a clear, coherent answer fully discussing advantages and disadvantages of three different HCI's.

Some candidates failed to use the correct terminology when naming their chosen interfaces, e.g. "touch screen" instead of "touch sensitive" and "voice" instead of "voice driven".

Most candidates were confident in their use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.



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