



GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
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EXAMINERS' REPORTS

**IT (New)
AS/Advanced**

January 2009

Statistical Information

This booklet contains summary details for each unit: number entered; maximum mark available; mean mark achieved; grade ranges. *N.B. These refer to 'raw marks' used in the initial assessment, rather than to the uniform marks reported 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.

IT1 (New)
General Certificate of Education
January 2009
Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced

Principal Examiner: Dai Rudge

Unit Statistics

The following statistics include all candidates entered for the unit, whether or not they 'cashed 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.

Unit	Entry	Max Mark	Mean Mark
IT1	1788	80	37.1

Grade Ranges

A	60
B	52
C	45
D	38
E	31

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

General Comment

As with the previous specification it is pleasing to see candidates writing well and gaining marks from explanations rather than key words. It is though still sad to see the number of candidates who do not seem to understand what an example is and still try and explain in general terms.

For this paper a number of questions were similar to the legacy, notably questions 2 -8. For most of these questions one would have expected a similar performance and that was the case. Surprisingly this was also the case for question 4 where one would have expected a better performance in the legacy due to the candidates already studying databases. The response to question 1 was on par with the rest of the performance on the paper.

Questions 9 and 10 were new to this paper, and the responses were slightly disappointing. I would expect the response to question 10 to improve when candidates become more familiar with the quality of preparatory spreadsheet work that they need to take into the exam. Candidates did not appear to have studied the requirements of the specimen material in sufficient depth.

Comments on the Questions

- Q.1** (a) Many candidates couldn't give a sensible use for a touch sensitive screen and there was also a reasonable number of candidates who didn't realise what a biometric device was.
- (b) A significant number couldn't name an application of voice interfaces but most could give the disadvantages.
- Q.2** Candidates could state the characteristics but the question asked them to describe, consequently marks were lost by a significant number of candidates.
- Q.3** A significant number of candidates think that double-keying and proof reading are validation methods. A number also lost marks by not being able to explain what each method is trying to prevent.
- Q.4** (a) I am very surprised that candidates weren't able to correctly state the purpose of a query and a report as they should have used these functions in their project. Examples were reasonably done but not many could give proper explanations for the report or for import/export. Weaker candidates seemed to give a business related explanation rather than an ICT one.
- (b) Surprisingly few people could give one, let alone two, advantages of a relational database over a flat file approach.
- Q.5** One of the poorest answered questions with most not realising that they were being asked about **designing** efficient data processing systems.
- Q.6** On the whole well answered, though there was quite a range. A reasonable number could only state the three forms without giving enough detail to get the second mark for each crime.
- Q.7** This was the other question that was poorly answered. Candidates just gave general points about LAN's, WAN's and networks. The question required the candidates to write about the changes brought about by IT in working practices in the Health Service.

- Q.8** (a) Candidates scored quite well on this section with most scoring at least half marks.
- (b) Again quite well answered with candidates understanding the effects of ICT on the home.
- Q.9** A significant number of candidates could only outline one benefit and consequently didn't score well.
- Q.10** (a) Candidates lost marks by not having used the formulas in their spreadsheet or had used them incorrectly (e.g. SUM (A3*B5)). Candidates need to label their spreadsheet and use this labelling to reference where the function can be found.
- (b) Again candidates lost marks by not being able to demonstrate the use of their method. Most candidates gained at least one mark here.
- (c) Candidates lost marks by not having 2 methods of validation error trapping in their spreadsheet or by thinking that spinners, etc. were validation.
- (d) Candidates lost marks here by describing VLOOKUP or other methods used before.



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