



GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

ICT

JANUARY 2018

Grade boundary information for this subject is available on the WJEC public website at:
<https://www.wjecservices.co.uk/MarkToUMS/default.aspx?!=en>

Online results analysis

WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC secure website. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.

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.

Unit	Page
Unit 1: Understanding ICT - 4331	1
Unit 3: ICT in Organisations - 4333	4

ICT

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2018

UNIT 1: UNDERSTANDING ICT 4331

Comments on individual questions

- Q1. (a) The question was fairly well answered by the majority of candidates and many achieved the full four marks available. Most candidates were able to give at least two correct formatting features of Desktop Publishing software that could be used to improve the document. Some marks were lost where candidates gave features already shown on the draft poster. Colour on its own is also not accepted, colour needs to be qualified e.g. coloured background or coloured font.
- (b) This question was not answered well by most candidates. Marks were lost where candidates gave a task not specific to organising the Awards Ceremony.
- (c) Very well answered by all candidates.
- Q2. This question was accessible to all candidates due to the tick box format and extremely well answered by all candidates with many candidates gaining all of the three marks available.
- Q3. (a) Well answered by most candidates. Some candidates lost marks by mentioning only the camera element and missing out over the Internet. To achieve full marks, the answer needed to contain both camera and Internet.
- (b) Fairly well answered by most candidates.
- Q4. (a) This question was well answered by most candidates.
- (b) Most candidates found this question accessible however many candidates did not answer the question correctly and did not correctly identify how many fields had a Boolean data type.
- (c) This question was fairly well answered with most candidates achieving the mark for correctly stating that the appropriate data type was Text. Some candidates saw numbers in the Student ID field and incorrectly gave the answer as Number.
- (d) Candidates mostly answered this question correctly. Search criteria was spelt correctly and many candidates achieved the full two marks available.
- (e) Very poorly answered by most candidates. Most candidates were able to achieve one mark out of the two available. Where marks were lost, candidates gave verification methods to correct the problem, even though the question asked for a suitable validation technique to prevent the error. Marks were also lost where the candidate correctly gave a range check or drop down list but incorrectly gave the wrong range, or did not correctly give the upper and lower boundaries.

- (f) Fairly well answered with many candidates giving answers such as faster to sort the data, easier to update and that it saves on storage space. Some candidates lost marks due to repeating the excluded answers in the question e.g. you can search the database quickly.
- Q5. (a) Very well answered by most candidates – this question was accessible to all candidates due to the tick box format.
- (b) Well answered by most candidates.
- (c) Well answered by most candidates with many candidates achieving at least two out of four correct answers. Popular correct answers included advantages such as fast download speeds and disadvantages such as you could get a virus or the music industry can be harmed due to illegal downloads. If candidates say that, an advantage of downloading music is they can choose one track and they do not need to get the whole album, they need to state that the advantage is that this saves money buying one song rather than the whole album.
- Q6. (a) Extremely well answered by all candidates.
- (b) Very well answered by all candidates.
- (c) Well answered by most candidates.
- (d) Unfortunately, even though the question states that absolute cell referencing should be used, many candidate responses did not include absolute cell referencing in the formula.
- (e) The "IF" statement question was fairly well answered by some candidates this year which was great to see. Marks were lost by including the "£" sign and not including the speech marks and commas required for the correct "IF" statement.
- (f) Fairly well answered although, many candidates did not attempt this question. Many candidates were able to gain at least one mark by giving a correct What If investigation, however they lost a mark due to not explaining the results of the investigation. Responses seen closely shadowed examples on the mark scheme which was great to see.
- Q7. (a) Very well answered by most candidates and accessible to all due to the tick box format.
- (b) This question was quite well answered by most candidates with most candidates stating or describing that biometric registration is unique to each student.
- (c) This question was well answered by many candidates and most candidates seemed knowledgeable on disadvantages of biometric registration. Marks were lost where candidates gave general disadvantages that were not specific to biometric registration.

- Q8. (a) This question was answered fairly well by many candidates. Marks were sometimes lost due to candidates mixing up verification and validation.
- (b) Fairly well answered by many candidates. Marks were lost due to some responses stating that an advantage of email is that they can be sent 24/7 and that they are “faster”. To achieve the mark, faster needs to be qualified as in – they are faster than post to deliver to customers.
- Q9. This question was fairly well answered with candidates being able to achieve some marks by describing some health hazards caused by using a computer. Preventions were also given, although marks were lost due to repeated preventions being given. The major downfall on this question was candidates simply stating the health hazards and not describing how the hazards could be caused. This has also been the case several times in the past where a similar question has been asked.
- Q10. Well answered by most candidates, with many candidates being able to achieve at least four out of the eight available marks. This was a new style question and the correct answer was looking for an explanation of the issue and how it would occur and a prevention method. Marks were lost due to candidates repeating prevention methods. It was very pleasing to see the candidate’s strong knowledge of the social networking topic and many answers were explained extremely well.
- Q11. Many candidates who attempted this question used the correct terminology and there were very few spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. The majority of candidates attempted this question.
- Most candidates were able to give input devices used to help disabled learners. However, marks were sometimes lost due to candidates not describing how the device would be used to help learners with a disability and sometimes not even stating the disability.
- Popular answers for customising the desktop environment included magnifying icons and using an on screen keyboard. Some excellent answers were seen describing text to voice software and voice recognition software.
- The main reasons marks were lost on this question was firstly down to candidates stating that subtitles would be used on programs and finally where candidates did not give enough points in their responses to achieve the full eleven marks available.
- Some very good planning techniques and responses were seen on this extended writing question, and in some cases, answers were extremely impressive and well above the required GCSE standard.

ICT

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2018

UNIT 3: ICT IN ORGANISATIONS 4333

- Q.1 All candidates attempted this question and almost all candidates did well.
- Q.2 Almost all candidates attempted this question and most did well.
- Q.3 (a) Most candidates answered this well going for Windows, Icons, Menus and Pointers. It's worth noting that WIMP by itself was one mark.
- (b) (i) Generally answered well.
- (ii) Generally answered well with most candidates going for the "unique" and "can't be copied" answers.
- (iii) Some candidates could give disadvantages of the HCI but not answered as well as the advantages.
- (c) Only a minority of candidates were able to answer the question well using technical terminology correctly.
- Q.4 (a) Almost all candidates attempted this question and most did well.
- (b) Generally answered well but a lack of technical terminology is where many candidates lost marks.
- Q.5 (a) (i) Generally answered well.
- (ii) Answered poorly. Very few candidates were able to show an understanding of sound from instruments being analogue and a computer only able to process digital data.
- (b) Most candidates were able to get a mark for the advantage but the answers given for the disadvantages were generally poor.
- Q.6 (a) Answered well by the majority of candidates.
- (b) Answered well by the majority of candidates.
- (c) Most candidates showed an understanding of some of the network devices. Some candidates mixed up a bridge and a gateway. The answers for a switch could be improved with a more technical understanding as some candidates had an idea what a switch does but could not communicate it clearly in the exam paper.
- (d) Generally answered well.
- Q.7 (a) Answered well by the majority of candidates.
- (b) Answered well by the majority of candidates.

- Q.8 (a) Only a minority of candidates were able gain full marks on this question. Many candidates were able to identify a key field but not a second item of data.
- (b) Not very well answered. “Cash” was a popular but incorrect answer.
- Q.9 (a) Some candidates were able to identify that the item would be scanned but very few were able to identify the full process. Common mistakes were that “an item was removed from stock” rather than the number in stock being reduced by one and “items were re-ordered when stock is low” instead of items being automatically re-ordered when the number of items in stock fell below the re-order level.
- (b) Poorly answered. This question could be applied to a number of different organisations.
- Q.10 Answered well by the majority of candidates.
- Q.11 The most poorly answered question in the paper. Only a minority of candidates could correctly identify more than one principle. Most candidates that attempted the question would mix up two principles in one sentence.
- Q.12 Almost all candidates attempted this question and gained some marks. Hacking was the most popular answer. Candidates could improve their understanding of what the crime is. A number of candidates would write “virus” by itself as a crime.
- Q.13 **Almost all candidates attempted this question. Most candidates gained marks for discussing how jobs would be created or lost and for teleworking. Candidates generally failed to give more than one example of how ICT had positively or negatively affected the environment.**



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