GCSE EXAMINERS' REPORTS

ICT

JANUARY 2019

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ICT

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2019

4331 UNIT 1 UNDERSTANDING ICT

Comments on individual questions

Q1. (a) The question was very well answered by the majority of candidates.

(b) This question was well answered by many candidates.

(c) Mostly well answered by all candidates and some very good examples of uses were seen. Marks were lost where candidates gave brand names for their answers or gave DTP and spreadsheet software for answers, which was excluded in the question.

Q2. This question was fairly well answered by most candidates with many candidates gaining at least one of the two marks available. The question had a slightly different format and candidates were given the information example and were required to insert an example of data and knowledge. Most candidates were able to give the data answer correctly and achieve the one mark.

Q3. (a) Well answered by most candidates. Some candidates lost a mark by giving both answers that related to workplace monitoring.

(b) Well answered and most candidates could identify at least two suspicious aspects of the phishing email. Most candidates were able to advise how to prevent misuse caused by a phishing email. Popular answers included blocking the email address, not clicking on the link and reporting the email.

(c) This was a new strengthened spec topic. Many candidates achieved at least one mark for this question with the most popular correct answer being the second point on the list – 'Email address spoofing is used for hacking'.

Q4. (a) This question was well answered by most candidates. Most candidates were able to correctly identify the Student ID and explain that the key field uniquely identifies each record.

(b) This question was poorly answered by many candidates. Most candidates did not understand what an input mask was.

(c) This question was mostly well answered by candidates.

(d) This question was poorly answered by many candidates and correct syntax was not often seen.

(e) This question was well answered by many candidates.

(f) This question was well answered by most candidates.

Q5.   (a)   Extremely well answered by all candidates.

       (b)   Very well answered by all candidates.

       (c)   Fairly well answered by many candidates.

       (d)   Very poorly answered by most candidates. Candidates confused the greater
              than or less than symbols and forgot to include the correct syntax e.g. the
              speech marks, commas, or brackets.

Q6.   (a)   This question was attempted by almost all candidates. Fairly well answered,
              although many candidates did confuse uses of a VLE with advantages of a
              VLE. Marks were also lost due to candidates giving answers excluded from
              the question.

       (b)   Fairly well answered by most candidates.

Q7.   (a)   A question from the new strengthened spec. Fairly well answered by many
              candidates. It was positive to see that many candidates were able to give one
              correct use of AR to achieve at least one mark – with the most popular
              answer bring game playing and an example. Few candidates achieved the
              full two marks here.

       (b)   Poorly answered by many candidates. Many candidates could give one
              advantage of augmented reality to achieve one mark; however, the
              disadvantages were very poorly answered.

Q8.   (a)   This question was fairly well answered with most candidates giving the
              correct a correct answer of sporting matches. Candidates lost marks by
              giving television brand names as answers here.

       (b)   Many candidates lost marks by giving answers that stated that it would be a
              high cost every month rather than a one off payment. Poorly answered by
              many candidates.

Q9.   (a)   Many candidates confused uses with advantages here.

       (b)   Many candidates lost marks by giving uses of GIS for navigation.   Poorly
              answered by most candidates.

Q10.   The smart learning thermostat system was answered by the majority of
              candidates. This was a new question and many candidates unfortunately
              gave answers that could be related to a normal heating system such as
              timings.

Q11.   Many candidates attempted this question; however, the majority of
              candidates poorly answered it. Accidental Destruction Preventions and
              Deliberate Damage from Viruses was answered fairly well by some
              candidates. Unauthorised access was poorly answered as candidates simply
              said use passwords however, the question required further detail such as
              password protocols e.g. a strong password, changing the password regularly.

Q12.   Some extremely good planning techniques and responses were seen on this extended writing question, and in some cases, answers were impressive and well above the required GCSE standard.

Some impressive answers included candidates being able to give correct answers for dangers of disclosing personal data online, misusing images and the dangers of online webcams, Marks were lost where candidates repeated dangers and more commonly – repeated preventions. The part of the question that achieved most marks was the webcam dangers and preventions with some good answers including hackers observing without knowledge and preventions including covering up the webcam and using a firewall.

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4333 UNIT 3 ICT IN ORGANISATIONS

Comments on individual questions

Q.1 All candidates attempted this question and almost all candidates did well.

Q.2 (a) Most candidates could give one correct answer but only a minority could give two.

(b) (i) Not answered well. With double keying, most candidates noted that data was entered twice but did not describe the purpose of this.
(ii) Answered poorly. Very few candidates were able to attain any marks for this question.

Q.3 (a) Almost all candidates attempted this question and almost all candidates did well.

Q.4 (a) Generally well answered.

(b) About half of candidates attained at least one mark.

Q.5 (a) Answered well by almost all candidates.

(b) Generally well answered but some candidates lost marks due to vague or one-word answers.

(c) Generally well answered but some candidates lost marks due to listing tools that are not listed as standard tools in the specification.

Q.6 (a) Generally well answered.

(b) Generally well answered.

(c) The majority of candidates were able to attain some marks. A minority were only able to attain full marks.

(d) Most candidates were able to identify the Internet as a worldwide system of interconnected computer networks.

Q.7 (a) Generally well answered.

(b) There was an error in this question where the word "below" in the second decision should have been "above". All candidates were awarded a mark for the second part of this question to ensure no candidate was disadvantaged.

Q.8 (a) This was the most poorly answered question in the paper. Some candidates misunderstood "functions of an operating system" as "features of a GUI".

(b) (i) Poorly answered.
(ii) Answered well by the majority of candidates.

Q.9 (a) Poorly answered. Only a minority of candidates were able to list a public body and then give an example of information that could be sought from the public body.

(b) Poorly answered.

(c) Poorly answered.

(d) Generally well answered by the candidates that attempted the question.

Q.10   Most candidates attempted this question and gained some marks.

Q.11   The majority of candidates attempted this question and gained some marks. Some candidates lost marks for vague answers.

Q.12   This was the question was the most poorly attempted. Of those that attempted the question, the majority could link the verification and validation to an e-commerce system with suitable examples. The answers for back-up were generally vague.