Principal Moderator Feedback

January 2013

Applied GCE ICT 6955

Unit 5: Web Development

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Contents

General Comments

The entry for this double award unit is small. E-portfolios with marks across the range were seen and, although there were few in the high 40s and 50s, some of these were of a very good standard. The majority of centres had assessed the evidence realistically although there was some evidence of inconsistent assessment within centres.

There is a requirement to involve a client during the development of the web site even if this is a role played by the teacher. Lack of involvement of a client can impact on the marks achieved for this unit.

Candidates supplied the websites created which is correct practice. There was evidence relating to all strands but often the processes behind the production of the website were not well evidenced. There is still a lack of understanding of difference between design, implementation and prototyping and what evidence is appropriate for strands b and c.

Comments on strand a

Most candidates produced project plans in **graphical format** which is a requirement in order to access this strand. Several centres used project management software for this strand which is good practice although MS Excel is also acceptable for this AS unit. Plans need to be detailed in order to be placed in mark band 2 as well as evidence that the plan had actually been used to monitor progress during the development of the website.

Plans generally had been produced at the beginning of the process as required although the explanation of progress against the plan to support its use was often a weakness.

Comments on strand b

More candidates are producing evidence for both aspects of this strand but there are still many candidates being assessed too generously for the evidence produced.

Candidates are required to research client requirements at the outset of the project gathering information and analysing requirements. A variety of research techniques should be evidenced if accessing marks in the higher mark bands. There was a range used including completion of questionnaires by both the client and potential users of the site, email communications, interviews and researching of similar sites. On completion of the investigation a requirements analysis needs to be produced which covers all aspects of 5.3 of the specification.

The other aspect of this strand is the design work for the site. The designs should be well presented and reflect the research carried out to establish the client needs. A good range of features should be included and detailed. On occasions marks were awarded at the top of mark band 2 and higher when the candidate had produced storyboards, structure chart and flowchart although these were not detailed or presented clearly.

It is expected that some feedback is received from the client at the design stage in order to reach the higher mark band.

Comments on strand c

There are 3 distinct areas to address this strand, the prototyping of the design, the actual website and testing. On occasions high marks are awarded purely on the final website.

The prototyping was still poorly evidenced with few candidates including convincing evidence that proper prototyping had been undertaken. In all mark bands there needs to be evidence of some prototyping to improve and refine the initial design. Again the client should be involved in providing feedback on prototypes resulting in the finished site meeting their requirements. Better candidates had clear evidence of meetings with the client with explanations of changes required, with before and after screen shots.

The standard of websites produced varied in quality. The range of features included affects the marks awarded in this strand. For mark band 3 there should be a range of features included, such as multimedia content, interactive components, simple animations, replacement text for visually disabled access, that meet the requirements of the client and potential users. Candidates included the websites in their e-portfolios which is a requirement for this strand.   Few candidates produced explicit evidence they understood the basic principles of HTML and were able to modify and edit HTML code.   This is expected for the higher marks band to support good use of software tools.

Most candidates produced evidence of summative testing and some of this was well done and addressed most of 5.6. Although test plans should be supported with screenshots and explanations of any changes that needed to be made as a result of testing. The weaker candidates seemed to concentrate on buttons and links which really only supports the limited testing required for mark band 1.

Comments on strand d

This strand clearly requires the completed web site to be evaluated in terms of functionality or how well the site meets the client and user requirements and performance or how well it operates in a variety of environments. Reference can be made to client and user feedback and results of testing to support the evaluative comments made. Any improvements should again relate to the web site.

Comments on strand e

The majority of candidates addressed this strand better and the assessment was more realistic.

Most candidates presented the evidence correctly, i.e. a Proposal addressed to the client in an appropriate format. The best evidence was in the form of a professionally presented report.

The recommendation should be relevant to the web site produced rather than covering all the suggestions listed in section 5.7

Few Assessors mentioned Quality of Written Communication in the feedback on the e-sheets for this stand.

Comments on Administrative Procedures

Most samples were received by the stated deadline and correct documentation was provided, ie candidate authentication sheets and esheets.   Some of the esheets were not named using the file naming conventions specified in the Guidance for Centres: Moderation of e-Portfolios document which can be found on the Applied GCE ICT section of Edexcel.com.

There were some examples of inconsistent assessment of e-portfolios within centres.

There were some centres that did not send candidate authentication sheets and these had to be chased by the moderator.   Candidate authentication sheets are essential to the moderation process.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: