

Principal Moderator Feedback

January 2013

Applied GCE ICT 6964

Unit 14: Programming

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the world's leading learning company. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk for our BTEC qualifications.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

If you have any subject specific questions about this specification that require the help of a subject specialist, you can speak directly to the subject team at Pearson. Their contact details can be found on this link: www.edexcel.com/teachingservices.

You can also use our online Ask the Expert service at www.edexcel.com/ask. You will need an Edexcel username and password to access this service.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2013

Publications Code UA035143

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2013

Contents

General comments	4
Strand (a)	4
Strand (b)	5
Strand (c)	5
Strand (d)	5
Strand (e)	5
Grade Boundaries	6

General Comments

It was pleasing to see most centres submitting the sample required on one disk and including the esheets and candidate authentication sheets, all labelled according to the correct naming conventions as detailed in the document "Moderation of ePortfolios: Guidance for Centres".

Most candidates' eportfolios were in the correct file formats, within the stated file size of 25 MB and most contained a clear index file which started the eportfolio. It was good to see many assessors giving clear feedback in the esheets explaining the assessment decisions made and marks awarded. See the section on admin at the end of this report which details some poor practice relating to the submission of work for moderation.

It was also pleasing to see that the majority of centres were assessing to National Standards with sound assessment decisions made across the board. Assessors clearly understand what is required and how to apply the mark bands for this unit.

There were very few instances of Centres adopting a very structured approach with all candidates producing very similar evidence this window. This is excellent, and centres are encouraged again to allow their candidates to come up with independent approaches to this unit.

The majority of candidates had included a copy of the functional specification which really did make moderation easier as the moderators had something to compare the program against.

However, there are still instances where executable versions of the programs are not being included. It is imperative that the moderator can access this. Also, occasionally the exe files did not run properly – usually down to absolute paths to files etc. Candidates should ensure relative paths are used.

Comments on Strand A

It was nice to see that very, very few candidates included what they had done here as opposed to what they were going to do. However, it is worthwhile reiterating that screenshots of the final system are not design and that it is the level of detail within the design that leads to the mark band placement. For the top of the higher mark bands the design needs to be detailed with, at mark band two, explanations of how input data will be validated and at mark band three identification of the processing to be carried out in each event.

At times centre assessors were generous in relation to the evidence of the use of global variables and the use of a suitable variety of selection and iteration structures and other complex features, as these could not always be found where marks and assessment comments indicated they were present. This also applies to the effective use of controls and events – at times the evidence did not show this very clearly, especially where there were problems getting the programs to run and supporting documentation

was not detailed. Please take note of the comments given in strand B regarding programs that are of a simplistic nature.

Comments on Strand B

There were very few instances of simplistic programs being included this moderation window and some very good examples of systems that could well be classed as 'professional level'. However, it must be pointed out once again that simplistic programs that appear to meet the strand criterion if a 'tick box' approach is used are not acceptable. Programs have to be of appropriate complexity to open up all of the mark bands. Very simple programs will limit the marks available in strands A to D to mark band 1.

Standard ways of working are important in this strand. With regards to programming code this includes good use of object names, indentation and comments clearly explaining the purpose of the code. There was some excellent, clear evidence of this but not across the board and it is very important.

Please take note of the comments made with regards to global variables etc in strand A too as it also applies to this strand.

Comments on Strand C

Please see comment given in strand B with regards to programs of a simplistic nature. On the whole evidence for this strand was good with some very detailed test plans and results including changes made etc.

Comments on Strand D

Please see comment given in strand B with regards to programs of a simplistic nature. On the whole the evidence for this strand was good ie both documents had been included and assessors were correctly awarding marks.

Comments on Strand E

It was nice to see that there was very little evidence of candidates being placed in too high a mark band in this strand in this moderation window. Where the higher marks had been awarded most candidates had included an evaluation that was well rounded and included an evaluation of the quality of the user and technical documentation and the efficiency of the final program including data structures.

Grade Boundaries

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

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467

Fax 01623 450481

Email publication.orders@edexcel.com

Order Code UA035143 January 2013

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com/quals

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE

Ofqual



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

