

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCE
in Applied ICT (6953)
Paper 01 The Knowledge Worker

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. 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. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. 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

Summer 2016

Publications Code 6953_01_1606_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2016

General

The paper was fairly standard and the range of marks did appear to reflect the candidates' ability.

There continues to be clear evidence that candidates are trained to produce 'centre' responses based on the pre-release material, particularly with respect to activity 2. In some instances these best guesses are incorrect. Candidates need to be prepared to use their spreadsheet skills to tackle the problems set in the activities, rather than learning formulae by rote.

Many centres had candidates producing bulky scripts composed of a large number of printouts. In some cases the formulae in activity 3 were spread over nine or more pages, rather than specified one page. Producing printouts for a range of rows and columns is a skill that many candidates need to practice.

Comments on Individual Questions:

Activity 1 - Understanding the situation

(a)

The majority of candidates produced a table which correctly stated the maximum and minimum amounts of tidal water required for the visit to each attraction to take place. Candidates did lose marks for incorrectly using the < and > signs where there was no need to use them. Some candidates realised that most of the data was contained in the 'Sights' worksheet. A few candidates produced a list, rather than a table; this incurred a penalty of 1 mark.

(b)

This section was usually well done with most listing seven relevant points. Where candidates listed more than seven points credit was only given for their first seven points.

Occasionally candidates repeated the tidal data from part (a), which gained no marks.

(c)

There was more recognition this year that the source of data was Tommy Jr, the harbour master and Tilly, however many were incorrectly stating the worksheets or data files as the source.

Activity 2 - Completing the Model

(a) July Tides (Data Entry)

Most candidates correctly imported the text file into the 'July Tides' worksheet. Many printed out the data on several sheets, rather than the single sheet required.

(b) Selection (Statistics Monday) 1

Well answered although some candidates lost marks through evidencing truncated formula. Many candidates obtained all the marks in this section.

The majority of candidates were able to enter working formulae in cells I14, J14 and K14 replicating them correctly, which required absolute addressing on the ranges to achieve this. Some used lookup values in J14 and K14 as A14, which was incorrect as the cell contents were not fixed.

(c) Selection (Statistics Monday) 2

A valid solution in cell L14 is =IF (J14>=Sights!D12,"Y", "N"). Common mistakes were omitting the = sign, having the "Y", "N" options the wrong way around and referring to Sights! E12 instead of D12. Error with the formulae in cells N14 and O14 were again having the "Y", "N" options the wrong way around, referring to Sights!D12 instead of E12. Some lost substantial marks through using nested IF and AND statements which didn't work correctly, nor were they necessary, as candidates were required to test separately the various tide and clearance values.

(d) Selection (Statistics Wednesday and Friday)

The majority of candidates realised that their formulae for Monday could be adapted for Wednesday and Friday. Some omitted the absolute addressing they had previously used in their solution for Monday. Formulae errors were frequently followed from their Monday formula for the height of tidal water. Many candidates had difficulty producing the required printout on one page.

(e) Using the model

There were many working solutions shown, however, where candidates had errors in their formulae they were unable to access marks in this section.

(f) Printouts. .

Where candidates produced more than the required six printouts they were unable to gain marks. Row and column headings were usually seen. Occasionally screenshots were provided rather than the printouts, which prevented those candidates from accessing the printout marks.

Activity 3 - August Tides

Some candidates appeared to find this question difficult and moved straight on to activity 4.

(a)

Most candidates were able to enter a working formula in cell B19 to calculate the phase angle, those who used the PI function gained a bonus mark. More candidates had difficulty entering working formulae into cells B21, B25 and B23 and B27,

(b) Using the model

Candidates were unable to gain marks in this section unless their formulae in activity 2 and the first part of activity 3 were correct. Despite this constraint many correctly designed trips for the week beginning 1st August were seen.

(c) Printouts

Only two printouts were required for activity 3,; candidates producing more than the required number were unable to gain this mark.

Activity 4

The majority of candidates produced brief handover documents. Several candidates did not answer the question and missed the fact that this should have included instructions on how to use the spreadsheet model. Where candidates did give instructions they did identify the need to change the date, time and the order of the visits. Most candidates did include screen prints and did make some attempt to explain them. Many included charts which were not relevant to the use of the model.

There were some good examples of how to speed up the process of creating the trips, one or two took this literally by adding a more powerful motor to the boat.

Too many candidates concentrated on improving the model by changing the colour schemes, rather than considering the flaws in it

Standard Ways of Working

Overall the majority of scripts were assembled correctly and included the appropriate authentication.

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>

