Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Applied ICT (6958)
Paper 01 Managing ICT Projects

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General Comments

There were fewer e-portfolios moderated this series, but still a significant number, with a range of marks represented. Many of the e-portfolios had been assessed too leniently with weaknesses in the level of detail in the project plan, the communication of progress against the plan and evidence of managing the project.

There are still a significant number of centres that are assessing too leniently and should ensure familiarity with the teaching and learning strategies within the specification along with comments within this report.

Comments on strand a

Most centres are assessing this strand correctly. Few students are producing work to support mark band 3 which requires clear and measurable objectives to be included within the documents. Most students included details of stakeholders and a clear project handover date.

The categorisation of risks as frequently included now as well as the impact of the project on personnel and practices.

Comments on strand b

The marks awarded for this strand are dependent on the level of detail found in the plans and how realistically it has been broken down and the degree progress against the plan and the changes needed have been documented and communicated. A series of updated plans with no explanations does not provide strong evidence for the higher mark bands.

There was better evidence of risks being identified and categorised according to impact or likelihood of occurring which is needed to achieve marks at the top of mark band 2 and above.

The main areas for improvement in this series would be the explanations of progress against the plans and how delays had been handled.

Comments on strand c

Again this strand was often assessed too leniently. Most students produced a series of minuted meetings and their presentation was generally improved. They did not always take place evenly across the project life cycle. There remains to be a tendency to discuss the progress of the product development rather than the project progress.

For mark band 2 and above there also needs to be some additional evidence of monitoring progress in the form ideally of project progress reports but a detailed project diary could also be effective. These documents should record the issues that have arisen during the management of the project

and what actions were carried out to make sure that the project is completed on time.

The quality of the documentation produced varied. Some minutes were extremely brief which does not provide good evidence of the decisions made. It is important that all minutes are dated.

There was a variety of evidence produced for informal communication and there was some evidence of this by most students.

There was still significant number of students who did not appreciate the role of the handover or end of project review meeting. This meeting needs to include feedback from a range of stakeholders on the way that the project was managed so that this can be used within the evaluation as well as confirming that the project was completed on time.

Comments on strand d

There is better understanding of this strand. Generally, the evidence for this strand is provided by evidence presented for strand b and c along with the completed product rather than separate evidence. The tasks within the plan should correlate with the meetings held and additional evidence from project progress reports or diaries helps to support any changes made and confirmation that the product was completed by the deadline.

Comments on strand e

This strand was frequently assessed too leniently. The issues observed remained the same as in previous series although centres had made more of an effort to provide some feedback in the end of project meeting. The evidence was stronger when there had been a separate handover and end of project review meeting when the former could focus on the quality of the product and the latter on how well the project had been managed. Many students had produced detailed evaluations which covered the three required aspects namely; the success of the project; effectiveness of project management methods and their own performance as a project manager. However, in many instances the feedback gained and used from the end of project review meeting did not justify awarding marks in the higher mark bands.

Quality of Written Communication is assessed this strand and should be commented on in the e-sheet for this strand and this was rarely seen.

Comments on Administrative Procedures

Most centres submitted the CDs by the deadline. Generally the work had been well organised and the evidence was easy to access.

Most centres named the eportfolios with the correct naming conventions but many did not do so for the naming of the esheets. Most centres provided student authentication in the form of individual sheets scanned on to the CD or provided hard copy format of these.

Grade Boundaries

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