Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE Applied in Information and Communication Technology (6958)

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 generously 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 generously and should ensure familiarity with the teaching and learning strategies within the specification, along with comments within this report.

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 e-portfolios with the correct naming conventions but many did not do so for the naming of the e-sheets. Most centres provided candidate authentication in the form of individual sheets scanned on to the CD or provided hard copy format of these.

There were some instances of broken links or no attempt to include an e-portfolio, which hinder the efficiency of the moderation process.

Strand A

Most centres are assessing this strand correctly. There were more candidates producing work to support Mark Band 3 which requires clear and measurable objectives to be included within the documents. Most candidates included details of stakeholders and a clear project handover date.

In this examination series, the categorisation of risks was as well as the impact of the project on personnel and practices were frequently included.

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. The degree of progress against the plan and the changes needed documented and communicated are also essential. 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.

There were more examples of inclusion of progress reports, justifying progress against the plan and use of contingencies.

Strand C

This strand was often assessed too generously. Most candidates produced a series of minuted meetings and their presentation was generally improved. Candidates did not always take place evenly across the project life cycle. There remains to be a

tendency to discuss only 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. As indicated, these were more commonly included.

The quality of the documentation produced varied. Some minutes were extremely brief which did not provide good evidence of the decisions made. It is important that all minutes are dated and that a range of stakeholders actually contribute to the meetings.

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

There was still a significant amount of candidates 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.

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.

Strand E

This strand was frequently assessed too generously. The issues observed remained the same as in previous examination series, although centres had provided 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 candidates 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 in this strand and should be commented on in the e-sheet. However, this was rarely seen.