

Examiners' Report

January 2012

Level 1 Principal Learning
Information Technology
Unit 1 (IT101) Technology in Organisations

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General Comments

As in previous series learners made a good attempt at the paper, however, whilst the percentage passing the examination was still high there was a significant fall compared to previous series. For the first time the number of learners achieving A* and A grades fell to below half.

As in June 2011, learners showed less understanding than in the earlier series of Learning Outcome 1 – 'Know the key components of technology systems used in business'.

However, the improvement in responses to Learning Outcome 2 - 'Know why an organisation should implement or improve a technology system' was maintained.

Question 1

A surprising number of learners were unable to identify a mouse as an input device used as part of a standard PC.

The majority of learners were able to gain more than two marks in (b); identifying the uses of software packages, although only a minority identified a presentation package as being application software.

LO2 was addressed in (d) and (e) with slightly more than half of learners giving correct responses in both.

Question 2

This question focussed on online banking and internet security and learners did in general achieve reasonable marks.

The majority of learners understood that changing a password regularly was sensible advice, however only a minority were able to identify the 'strongest' password from the list provided.

LO2 was addressed in (d) and (f); the majority gained more than 2 marks in (d) and a high percentage gained the mark in (f).

Question 3

As in the previous series learners did not score particularly well in this question which focussed on retail, in particular EPOS and loyalty cards.

Responses to (a) and (b) were very disappointing. Only a small number of learners correctly identified a touch screen as a device to enter details and view the price and similar numbers understood that application software was used to store data.

LO2 was addressed in (c) where the majority were able to gain more than two marks and in (d) where more than half of the learners gained the mark.

Question 4

This question focussed on e-commerce, in particular internet shopping.

In part (a) only just over half of learners identified a modem as being needed to connect to the internet. Part (b) was very poorly answered, with a small minority identifying a benefit of online ordering and only a minority managed to gain more than two marks in (c).

Very poor responses were in produced in (e) (ii) and (f) (ii).

Question 5

This question focussed on sports and leisure and learners generally scored well in all parts.

Particularly pleasing were the responses to (d) where the majority of learners achieved high marks.

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