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Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 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.

As in January 2012 learners were weaker than in the earlier series in 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

This question focussed on EPOS and self service checkouts and candidates generally achieved higher marks on this topic than in previous series. However, only a minority were able to identify an item number is provided by the barcode.

The vast majority of candidates gained high marks for identifying the components of an EPOS terminal and there function as input or output.

Question 2

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

The majority of candidates scored high marks for identifying the components needed to connect to the internet and candidates also did well in providing information about internet auction sites in part (c)(i).

Question 3

The focus of this question was on banking, in particular ATMs.

The majority of candidates were able to correctly order the steps in withdrawing cash from an ATM, although only slightly more than half correctly identified where the details of the withdrawal were stored.

LO2 was addressed in (d)(i) and again only slightly more than half understood the benefits to the bank of the widespread use of ATMs.

Question 4

The focus of the question was technology used in manufacturing.

The majority of candidates scored well in (a)(i) and (a)(ii), but were less successful in (a)(iii) where they were asked to identify the type of device a heater is in a control system.

CAD system knowledge was assessed in (b)(i) and this proved to be difficult for many candidates.

Candidates also struggled to identify the changing pattern of employment in manufacturing in part (c).

Question 5

The scenario for the question was a kitchen manufacturer and candidates were asked questions on a variety of related issues.

Candidates did not score well in (b) - understanding the benefits to the kitchen manufacturer of representatives working from home.

The majority of candidates were able to identify the information that must be entered into a route planner when planning a journey in (c) and the information provided by the route planner in (d).

The final question on the paper, ordering the steps in the congestion charging system, proved to be difficult for many.

Grade Boundaries

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