Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

Level 2 Principal Learning
Information Technology
Paper 1 (IT201) The Potential of Technology

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General Comments
As in the previous series the learners made a good attempt at the paper with a high percentage passing, however there was a fall in the number gaining A and A* grades.

Learning Outcome 2 and Learning Outcome 3 where the focus is on applying knowledge still continues to be the areas where learners struggle and the majority did, in this series, do well on Learning Outcome 1.

Learners continued to do well on Learning Outcome 4 - 'Understand how technology is changing the way organisations, individuals and society operate'.

Question 1
Focus – Retail.

Learners generally made a good attempt at this question. The majority were able to score well on hardware related issues and the majority gained more than half marks in the EPOS question in (c).

Q1(b)(i) was however not well answered and only a small minority identified that data can be transferred over a LAN using radio waves.

Question 2
Focus – Banking, including ATMs and online banking.

This question was also well answered by the majority.

(a), (b) and (c) related to online banking security issues and the majority were able to achieve the marks.

Learners scored well in (d)(i) & (d)(ii), correctly identifying the benefits to both the customers and the banks of ATMs. However only a minority were able to identify how data is transmitted from an ATM to the bank's central computer. The vast majority identified encryption as a method of securing transmitted data.

Question 3
Focus – E-commerce.

The first parts of this question were generally not well answered with only a minority identifying an advantage to a company of selling online in (a) and that downloaded music can be of a better quality than music on a CD in (b). Learners did however fare better in (d) about effective websites.

Learners did particularly well in (e) correctly identifying statements about online auction sites and (f) protecting personal security details when using the internet. In both instances the majority of learners gained 3 or 4 marks.

Question 4
Focus – Sport and leisure.

The majority were able to identify the reason for sending emails to non-attending members in (a) and a similar percentage were able to show understanding of the difference between magnetic stripe and microchip technologies in (b)(i).

(b)(ii) was generally well answered, however less than half identified a sensor as the device that measures heart rate.

Question 5
Focus – Education

Only a small percentage of learners were able to identify the legislation that prohibits users logging onto networks with another person's user name and password and few showed understanding of viruses.

A good understanding of intranets was demonstrated in (d) with the majority gaining more than 2 marks. Similarly in (e) the majority gained more than 2 marks demonstrating a good understanding of CAL systems.

Question 6
Focus – Learning Outcome 4; the impact of changing technologies

There were mixed responses from learners in (a) & (b) which focussed on globalisation, with learners generally gaining 2 marks in (a) and around half gaining a mark in (b).

Learners showed a good understanding of social networking sites and chat rooms in (d) with the majority gaining more than 3 marks.

Grade Boundaries

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http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx