Principal Examiner Feedback

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Principal Learning
Information Technology (IT201/01)

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. Within this relatively small cohort, there was a rise in the number passing the paper and also an increase in the percentage gaining A and A* grades, in comparison to last year.

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

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

Question 1

The focus of this question was Loyalty card schemes, EFTPOS and self service checkouts.

Candidates scored well on the first questions on the paper with a large proportion gaining both of the marks relating to loyalty card schemes.

Whilst many were able to identify the device used to read electronic data from an EFTPOS payment card very few were able to identify the benefit to a supermarket of using EFTPOS.

In general candidates were only able to gain two or three of the marks available for the correctly identifying statements about a LAN used in a supermarket.

Question 2

This question focussed on technology systems used in entertainment, in this instance a cinema complex.

Only a minority of candidates were able to identify the components of a self service ticket machine; although the vast majority were able to identify why people under sixteen could not use these machines.

The majority of candidates identified benefits to both the cinema and customers of providing an online ticket purchasing system. Surprisingly few were able to correctly identify the components needed to access an online ticket purchasing system.

The majority of candidates were able to gain at least three of the marks relating to the benefits of new technologies.

Question 3

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

The candidates generally made a very good attempt at this question, demonstrating a good knowledge of the use of ATMs and the related risk of

identity theft. They were slightly weaker on the benefits to a bank of having ATMs.

The majority of candidates scored high marks in (g) relating to the impact of online banking to banks, their staff and customers.

Question 4

The focus of this question was e-commerce, in particular internet shopping.

Overall this question was not as well answered as Question 3.

Candidates did not do well in identifying the legislation relating to unauthorised access to computer systems in (c) and only just over half of candidates could identify a URL for a secure website.

Many candidates struggled to identify software types in (e)(i) and only a minority were able to identify the advantage of automatic data capture in(e)(ii).

Question 5

The main transport and logistics, in particular congestion charging and traffic control, where the focus of this question.

Candidates scored very well in (a)(ii), correctly identifying that the registration number can be used to identify the vehicle owner. However the responses to the other parts of the question were weaker. Fewer than half of the candidates were able to identify other data collected as part of a traffic congestion system.

(b) related to devices used in traffic control systems and only slightly more than half of candidates were able to identify an input device and an output device used in the system.

Candidates struggled with (c) where they were asked to identify the purpose of RSS feeds to traffic information on local authority websites.

Many candidates achieved three or four marks in the final part of the question, reasons why a local authority should have a website.

Question 6

The focus for this question was on learning Outcome 4 - 'Understand how technology is changing the way organisations, individuals and society operate'.

The question was well answered with many candidates gaining high marks in all parts of the question.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx

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