



Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level
In Information and Communication Technology
(WIT03) paper 01

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General

The 2019 paper followed a similar structure to recent WIT03 papers. Candidates were better prepared for this paper and many were able to access the available marks across the paper, although in activity four, the report, few scored high marks.

In activities two and three many candidates produced printouts with truncated formulae which meant they were unable to gain formulae marks. Screenshots, rather than printouts of worksheets were often seen.

Comments on Individual Questions:

Activity 1 – Understanding the situation

(a) Well answered by the majority, some candidates produced lists which exceeded the requested thirteen points. Marks are only awarded for the first thirteen points; any subsequent points are ignored.

Common mistakes were the insertion of incorrect units for volume, descriptions of weight and volume appliance categories and missing zeros in the load capacity of aircraft.

(b) Poorly answered. The majority of candidates were unable to identify data sources and the associated data.

Activity 2 – Completing the Model

(a) AirShippingRates

Very few candidates were unable to perform this task.

(b) AppliancesShipped2018

The first four marks in this section were usually awarded; a common mistake was to omit multiplying by J10 to give the total weight, in cell K10, the total volume in cell L10 and the value in cell M10.

(c) ShipmentMethod

Usually well answered, some candidates used nested IFs, which although quite cumbersome, were normally correct. Some candidates lost marks because their options of “sea” or “air” were the wrong way around. Those candidates, who printed their data, rather than their formulae, received no marks.

(d) Jan2018

It was pleasing to see a large number of well-prepared candidates who scored full marks in this section. Common errors were using a SUM, rather than a SUMIF having the criteria “sea” and “air” the wrong way around and using the incorrect range in cell for calculating the total volume of appliances shipped by sea in cell D25.

(e) ShipmentTotals2018

The majority of candidates were able to create drop down lists and gain the first six marks in this section, there were some centres where candidates appeared to be unfamiliar with the process of creating and drop down list. The remaining three E marks were usually accessed.

(f) Printouts. .

Where candidates produced more than the required number printouts they were unable to gain marks. Row and column headings were often omitted

Activity 3

(a) AppliancesCosts

Usually well answered, some candidates calculated 10% rather than 1% for the minimum production costs.

(b) Production2018

Many candidates who used a VLOOKUP formula forgot to multiply by the quantity of microwaves produced to obtain the minimum and maximum production costs. Some candidates used the Minimum and maximum functions, these were unnecessary in these calculations.

(c) StaffCosts2018

For the minimum and maximum salaries, the emphasis was on look up. Full marks were given for correct look up functions; alternatives gained some credit although not full marks. Some candidates forgot to multiply the salary values they had looked up by the minimum or maximum number of staff.

Very few candidates were able to enter a formula in cell H16 which calculated the percentage difference between the maximum and minimums total salaries.

(d) ProjectedProfit2019

Credit was only given where the projected minimum staff costs was greater than the projected maximum staff costs, No marks were awarded for a projected profit less than 20% or greater than 30%.

Activity 4

Candidates frequently stated that the offer of the loan should be accepted with little or no justification. Evaluation of the model was not seen or there were superficial; comments on improvements

Most candidates in level 1

SWW

The majority of candidates were awarded these marks.

