



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Level in Information Technology (WIT11)
Paper 01

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Introduction

This is the fourth full live series for this unit of the IAL IT. The first was in 2019, with years 2020, 2021, and 2022 being disrupted due to Covid19. The 2023 series was the first after Covid19. The 2024 series was sat last year.

Interpreting words used in the questions

The command taxonomy, available in the specification appendix 6, details the requirements for responses to both the command word **explain** and the command word **describe**. These command words are most often seen in questions worth two marks. The first mark is for a statement. The second mark is for a development of that statement (describe) or a justification of that statement (explain). The statement and the expansion must be linked and make sense together.

In the summer, responses were often seen for these questions that could only be awarded a single mark, as the development or justification was missing. The mark schemes for Q02bii and Q04a demonstrate patterns for responses to questions that achieve both marks.

The words used in the questions should help students identify what is required in the response. There is a difference between characteristics (what something is), functionality (what it does), affordability (what it allows you to do), and its benefits or drawbacks (why you would/would not use it).

Subject-specific terminology

Across all the questions, there was a tendency to omit the use of subject-specific terms or to confuse some words with others. Responses often were general and high-level where the use of a subject-specific term would have more clearly demonstrated knowledge and understanding.

Subject-specific notation

Many responses demonstrated accurate use of flowchart notation. This is much improved on last year. However, many responses struggled to demonstrate accurate recall of data flow symbols.

Essays

Essays are marked using levels-based mark schemes. The contents and information provided in the essays should be technically accurate. The length of the essay is not related to the awarded mark. For all essays, it is possible to achieve full marks using no more than the space provided in the question paper. Long, rambling essays that include vague or inaccurate information are awarded no more marks than shorter, accurate, and more concise essays.

Q01ai

This question was very well answered. Examiners saw many responses earning full marks.

Some responses were not clear in their use of the term 'device', not indicating whether it was a personal device or a device that made up part of the internet infrastructure.

- 1 Some people are poor and which means that they ~~so~~ cannot ~~afford~~ afford it.
- 2 Some ~~people do~~ people do not have electricity.

This response achieved two marks.

- 1 ~~Not financially stable~~ Religion Beliefs.
- 2 Government restrictions.

This response achieved one mark.

Q01aii

This is a multiple-choice question. Please refer directly to the mark scheme.

Q01aiii

This question was very well answered. Examiners saw many responses earning full marks.

The responses that did not use clear terminology were not able to achieve the mark.

(1)

DNS translates URL into an IP address.

This response achieved one mark.

(iii) State **one** function of a domain name server in the domain name system (DNS).

(1)

Easy to remember, to find the URL by the domain name what the user input into the browser.

This response achieved zero marks.

Q01b

Examiners saw the full range of marks for this question.

Some responses indicated that peer-to-peer is only Bluetooth or short range. Others gave characteristics of any network, regardless if it was peer-to-peer.

The majority of responses demonstrated understanding that no traditional server was required.

1-1

- 1 There is no server acting as a point of control. Every computer in the peer-to-peer network is equal and can share files.
- 2 Peer-to-peer ^{Students} User can decide which files and data to share and which to keep private.

This response achieved two marks, both from the first two lines of the first response.

- 1 They all share the same networks and are connected to the same LAN.
- 2 All nodes in the network have same abilities and can access equal areas in the network hence can share files.

This response achieved one mark, for the two lines in the second response.

Q01c

This question was very well answered.

Some students didn't read the question carefully, causing them to put in more than the eight ticks required. That limits the number of marks that can be awarded.

Q01d

This question was very well answered.

Most responses gave MP1 as the identification point and then give one of the answers from the 2nd set of marks, as expansion.

Lots of variety from installing malware, damaging files, identity theft, and just reading Kris's private files

Devan might use ~~it~~ the school network using Kris login credentials and install a virus to the network

This image shows a handwritten student response on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and spans two lines. The first line reads 'Devan might use ~~it~~ the school network using Kris login credentials and install a virus' and the second line reads 'to the network'. There is a correction from 'it' to 'the'.

This response achieved two marks.

The data ^{might} ~~can~~ be stolen and ~~can~~ access his personal ~~data~~ information. (2)

This image shows a handwritten student response on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and spans two lines. The first line reads 'The data ^{might} ~~can~~ be stolen and ~~can~~' and the second line reads 'access his personal ~~data~~ information.' There is a mark '(2)' at the end of the second line. There are corrections from 'can' to 'might' and 'data' to 'information'.

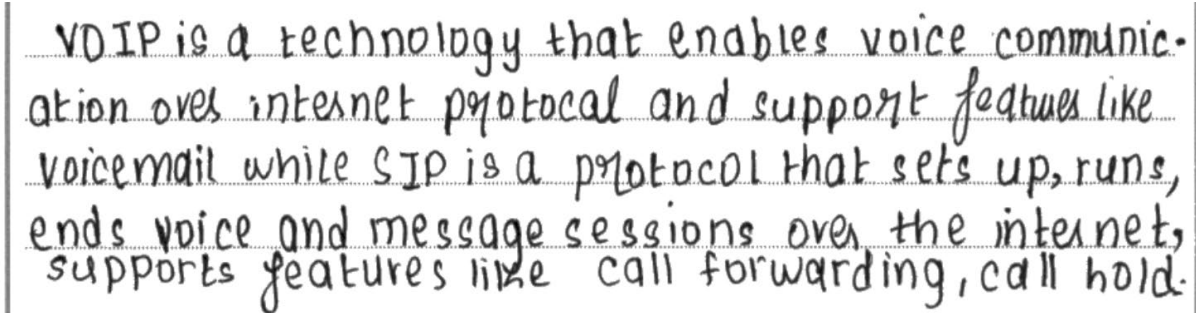
This response achieved one mark. It has provided the expansion, but has not indicated that the network login and password are being used.

Q01e

This question was quite well answered.

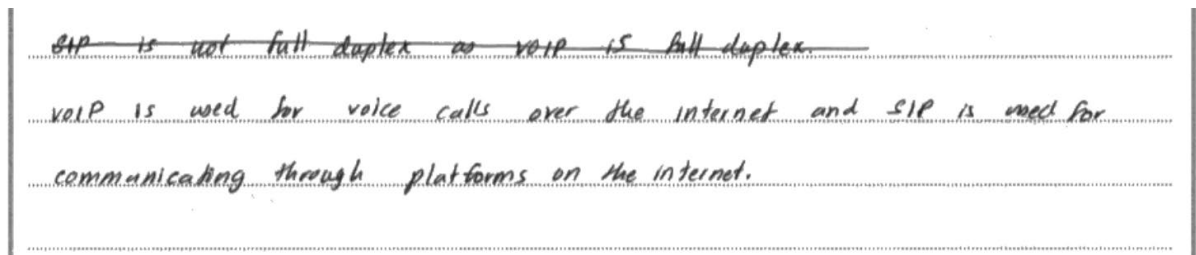
Most responses achieved marks for expressing the knowledge that VOIP is used for calls and SIP is used for starting and ending a session.

There were some responses that indicated that VOIP is used for calls and that SIP is not used for calls, thereby limiting the potential for marks to one mark.



VOIP is a technology that enables voice communication over internet protocol and support features like voicemail while SIP is a protocol that sets up, runs, ends voice and message sessions over the internet, supports features like call forwarding, call hold.

This response achieved two marks.



~~SIP is not full duplex as voip is full duplex.~~
voip is used for voice calls over the internet and SIP is used for communicating through platforms on the internet.

This response achieved one mark.

Q01f

This question was very well answered.

Where there was no indication of IPv6 for Row B or no indication of IPv4 for Row C, those marks could not be awarded.

Row D (DHCP) was the most frequently missed mark in this question. Often, this was confused with DNS.

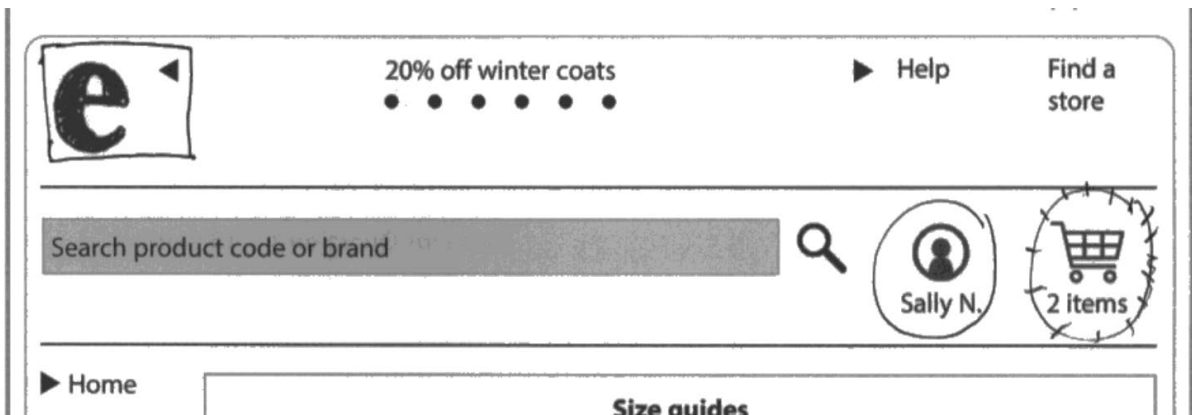
Q02ai

This question was very well answered.

It was disappointing to find some responses that were left blank.

Some responses identified the marquee as static content.

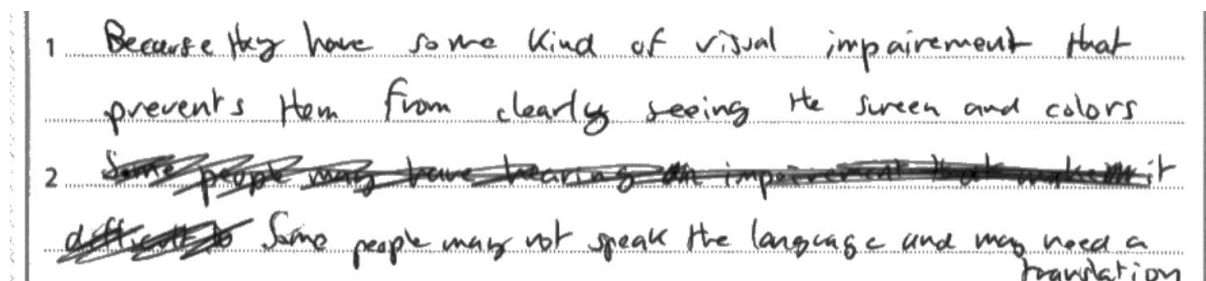
This response achieved two marks. It also illustrates a good technique for scratching out on drawing responses.



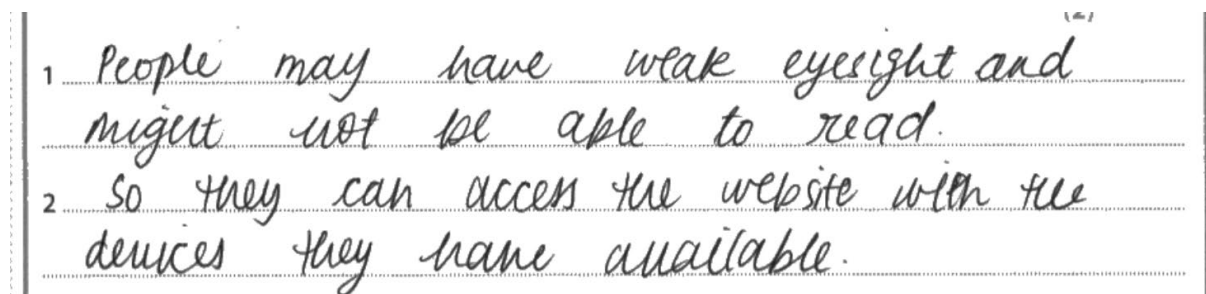
Q02aii

This question was very well answered.

The most frequent error was using examples of the same mark point twice, such as limited sight and colour-blindness.



This response achieved two marks.



This response achieved one mark.

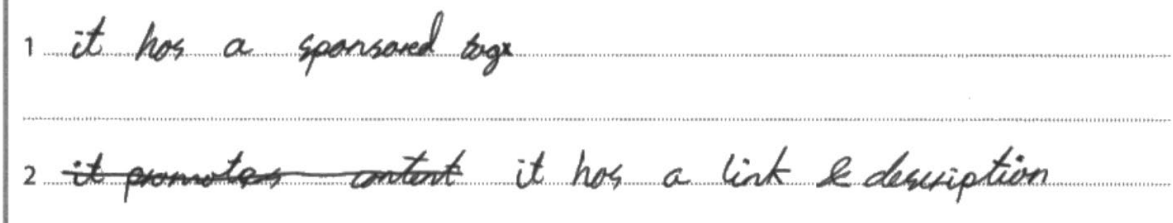
Q02bi

This question was not answered well.

Responses demonstrated a lack of understanding sponsored content.

Most responses demonstrated confusion with pay-per-click and targeted advertisement.

Other responses were based on delivery methods (cookies).

- 
- 1 it has a sponsored tag
- 2 ~~it promotes~~ content it has a link & description

This response achieved one mark.

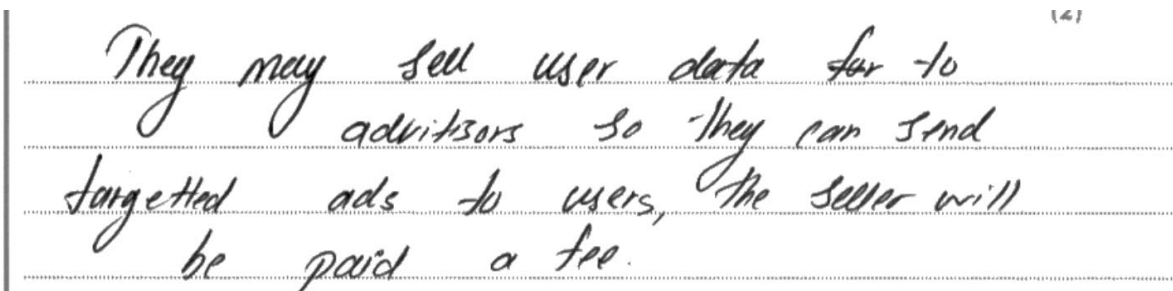
Q02bii

This question was quite well answered.

Most responses identified selling data to 3rd party companies.

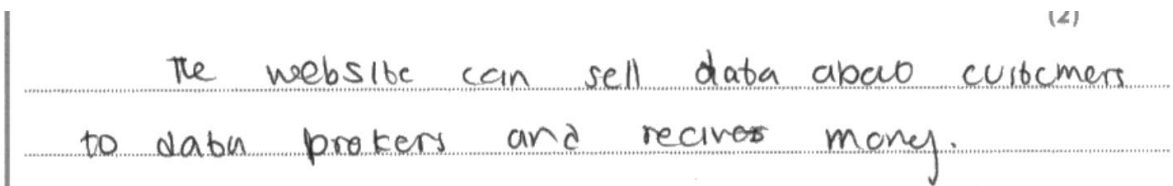
Many of those expanded the statement by mentioning target advertising.

Unfortunately, some responses just restated the information in the question ('make money') as the expansion Others, failed to add an expansion, as required by the Explain command word, at all.



They may sell user data for to
advertisers so they can send
targeted ads to users, the seller will
be paid a fee.

This response achieved two marks.



The website can sell data about customers
to data brokers and receives money.

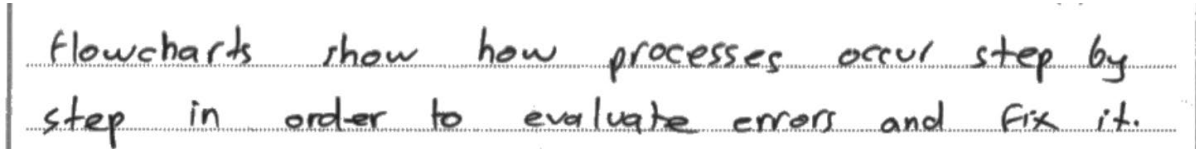
This response achieved one mark, as it lacks the expansion.

Q02ci

This question was quite well answered.

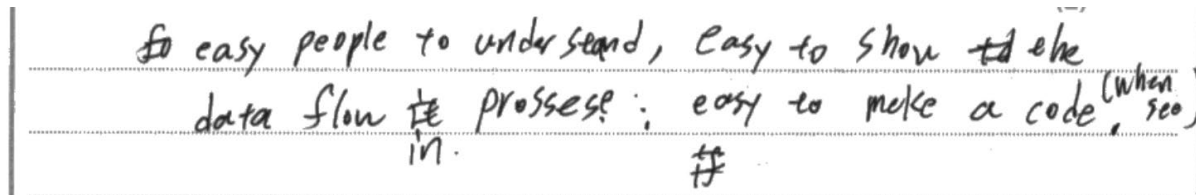
Most responses achieved a mark for 'easily understood' or 'finding errors'.

As with previous two-mark Explain questions, the most commonly missed mark point was the expansion.



flowcharts show how processes occur step by step in order to evaluate errors and fix it.

This response achieved two marks.



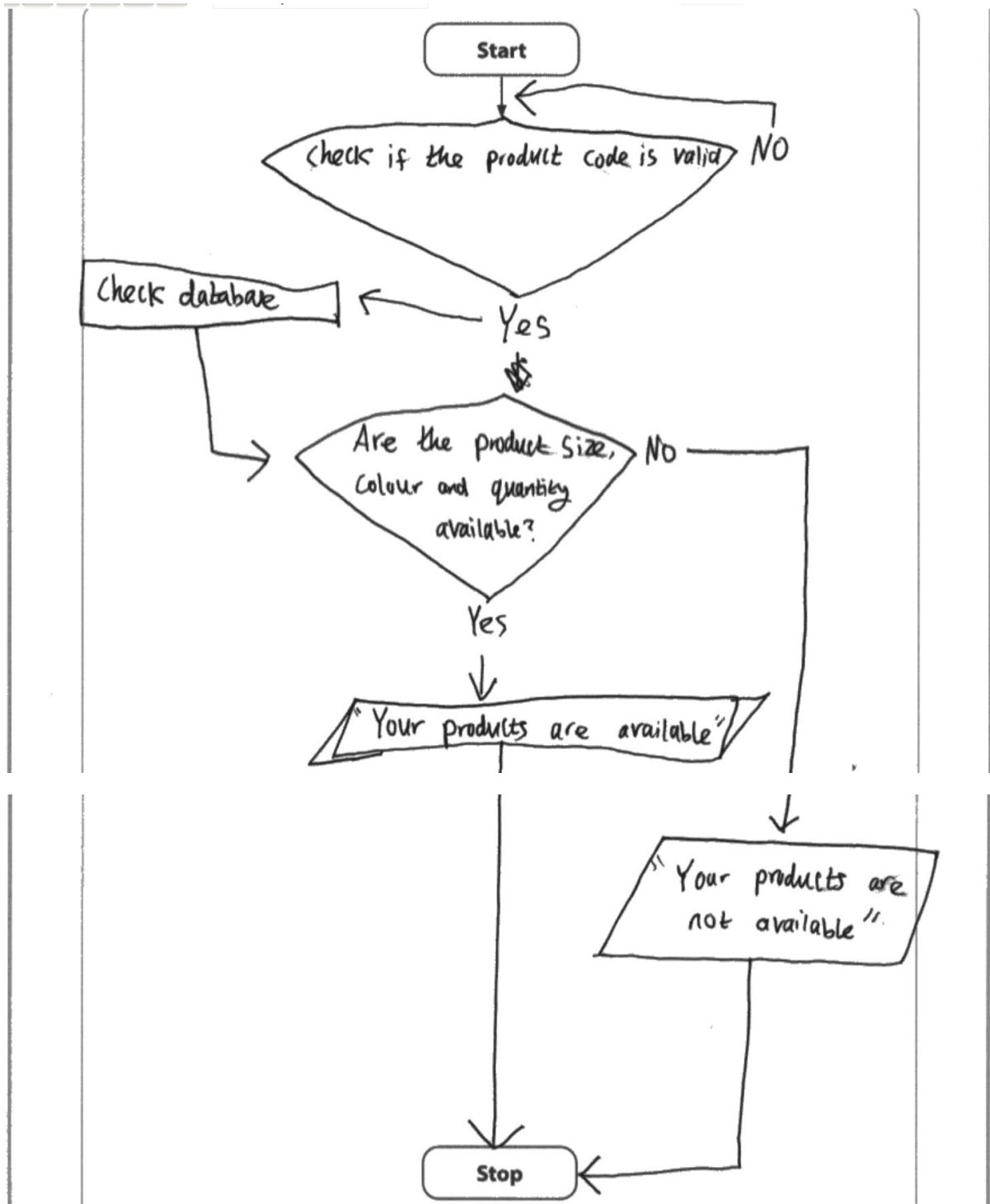
so easy people to understand, easy to show the data flow in process; easy to make a code in.

This response achieved one mark. It is missing the expansion.

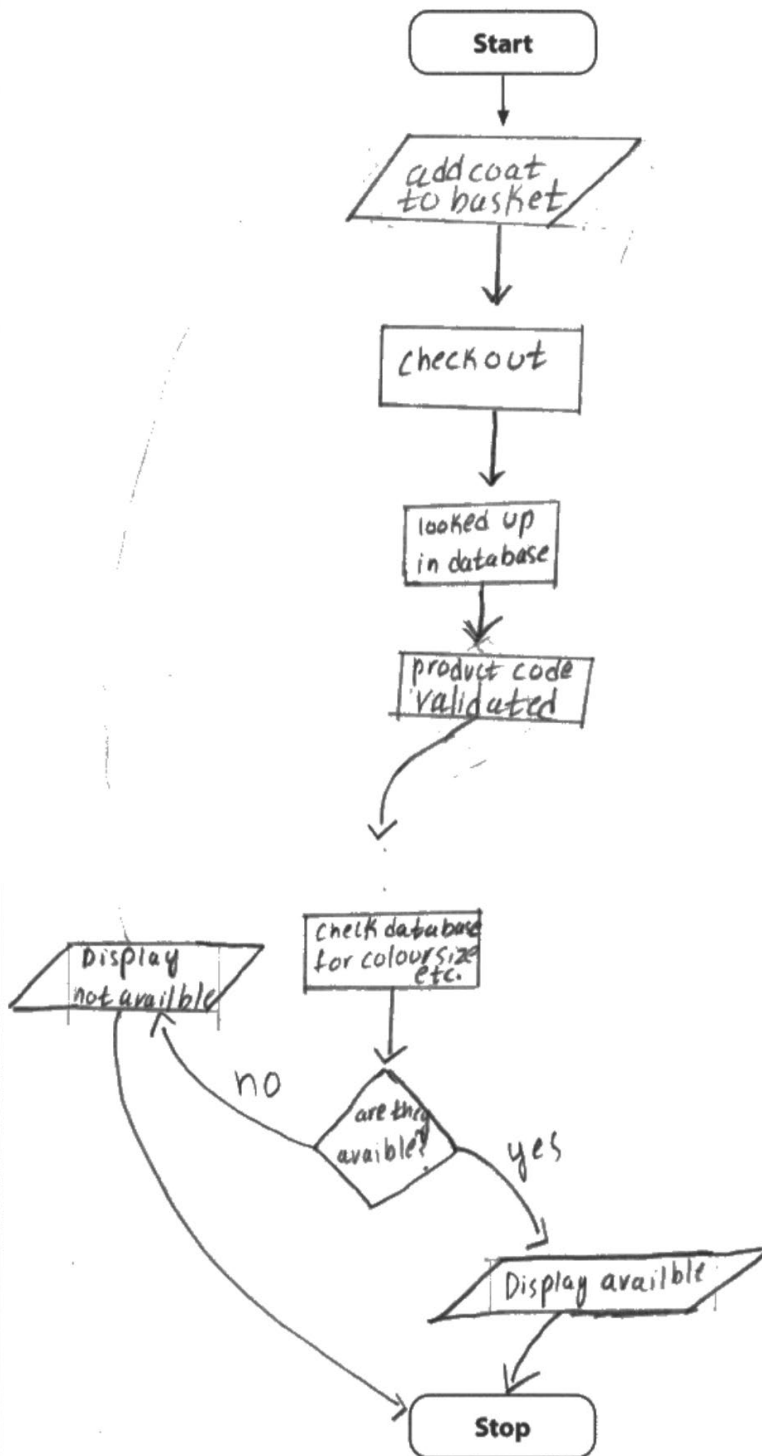
Q02cii

This question was very well answered. Examiners awarded the full range of marks on this question. Most responses achieved three or four marks.

The most frequently missed mark point was the one for functionality. Marks were also lost due to the use of notation and the diagram not being fully connected.



This response achieved four marks.



add coat
checkout
checkDB
check
check
colour
inform
inform
not va

This response achieved three marks.

In this response, invalid product codes are checked for availability.

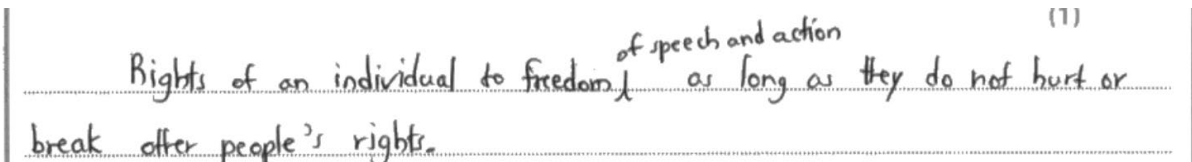
Q03a

This question was not well answered.

Very few responses were able to express a definition of a term directly from the specification. However, some responses were able to give examples.

Responses demonstrated confusion with data protection, privacy, and censorship.

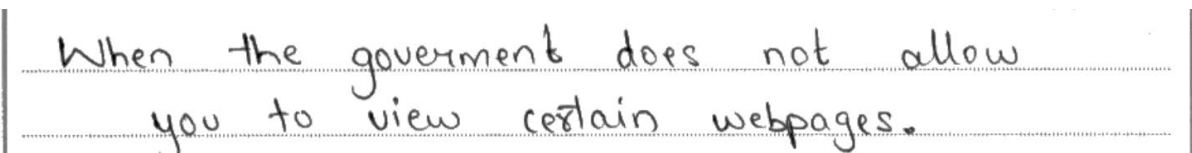
There were more blank responses than would have been anticipated for a term right out of the specification.



Rights of an individual to freedom of speech and action as long as they do not hurt or break other people's rights. (1)

This response achieved one mark.

It demonstrates very good Level 3 understanding of the required term.



When the government does not allow you to view certain webpages.

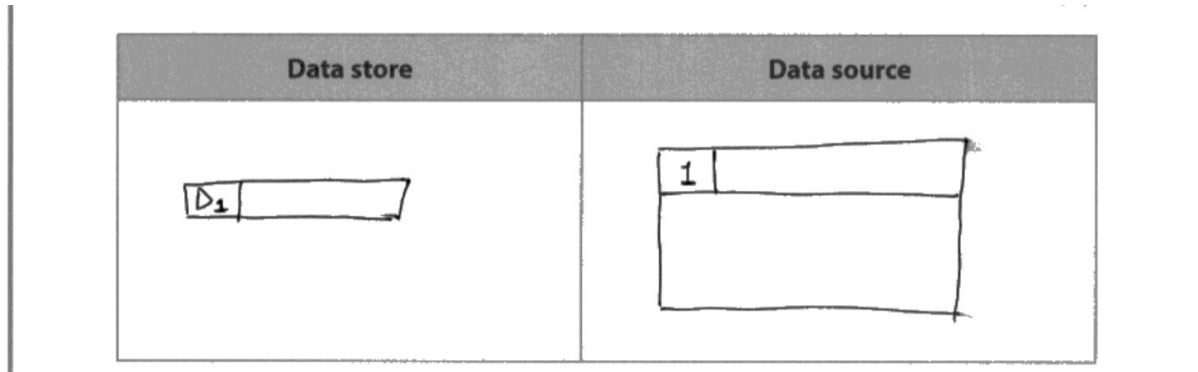
This response achieved zero marks.

It demonstrates a confusion with censorship. This was seen frequently.

Q03c

This question was quite well answered.

However, responses demonstrated confusion with data flow diagrams (DFDs). The process symbol from DFDs was frequently given as the data sources in information flow diagrams.



This response achieved one mark.

Q03di and Q03dii

These questions were well answered.

However, a surprising number of responses confused structured and unstructured data, so missed this mark.

There were some responses that supplied more than one number. Only the first number given is marked.



This response achieved zero marks.

Q03e

Overall, this question was quite well answered. Examiners awarded the full range of marks.

Most responses gained mark from the last row, the SELECT statement.

Other responses did not achieve marks because they omitted:

- TABLE for MP1
- Data types for MP2
- INTO for MP3
- VALUES for MP4

Requirement	Create the table containing fields to store the information
SQL query	<pre>CREATE TABLE tbl-vehicle (vehicle ID varchar(255) licence plate varchar(6) owner</pre>
Requirement	Insert a record for the vehicle into the table
SQL query	<pre>INSERT INTO tbl-vehicle (vehicleID, licence plate, owner) VALUES (3456, 'WN26TPX', 263611)</pre>
Requirement	Retrieve all the fields for all the records from the table
SQL query	<pre>SELECT (*) FROM tbl-vehicle</pre>

This response achieved four marks.

The data types for the fields are not provided. The SELECT statement is called as a function.

Q03f

This question was quite well answered.

Most responses achieved at least marks in Level 2.

Responses expressed understanding of automatic and patching, but lacked the skills to be able to develop the discussion.

Few responses included engagement with the context of the software listed in the scenario.

Many responses attempted to provide a definition of 'automatic' updating, but use the word 'automatic' in the definition. The responses that described the process of automatic updates, including setting options, an update is downloaded, the update is applied without asking the user, the timing is when the application is not in use, etc. demonstrated better understanding.

(6)

Council employees use various types of softwares that need to be kept upto date. Automatic updates are updates ~~down~~ from the developer which doesn't need to be installed manually if automatic updates are on. Patching is a method of fixing bugs and giving out security updates to softwares. Employees should turn on automatic updates because it installs updates for you. This is important because sometimes forgetting to install important anti malware or operating system updates could cause security breaches. This is also helpful since its easily forgotten to update word processing and database software, therefore missing out on new features. Installing

Patch updates are really important for operating system and anti malware software. ~~cause~~ If ~~the~~ patch updates are not installed, this could lead to security threats and data breaches from hackers and malware.

This response achieved 6 marks.

It demonstrates addressing both automatic and patching updates, with accurate statements. Further, it ties back to the context by identifying a suitable software that would benefit from each method. Expansion comes through the reason given for choosing that method.

Operating Systems - Should be updated by patching to make sure all bugs are fixed ~~and automatically~~
Anti-Malware - Should be updated automatically and regularly so the anti-malware can recognize and delete any kind of new malware that has been developed recently.
Word Processing and Communication softwares should be updated automatically so the council employees can use all the new features for better user experience and productivity.
Database should be update by patching so that any accidental deletions or file corruptions will not be saved automatically.
Operating Systems can also be updated automatically but some updates may have compatibility issues depending on whether or not their computers are old or new.

This response achieved five marks.

It demonstrates good ties to the software in the scenario, but has neglected to state how patching/automatic work.

Automatic upgrades should only be kept up by the employees overnight so that by the next working day, the software has no issues and works smoothly. Automatic upgrades can be scheduled so that the Council employees don't have to wait late night to remotely start the upgrade update.

Patching software is a way to get a latest working version of a software or a newer ~~version~~ version only if their current software version has bugs, runs slow, or doesn't operate well anymore. Patching improves bugs, minor fixes, and helps software run smoother with no heavy feature changes to the software.

An automatic update is used mainly for the OS for new features while patching improves ~~and~~ ^{part of} any bugs on a software.

This response achieved four marks.

It is a descriptive response with each type of updating addressed with some justification. There is little connection to the scenario.

Q04a

This question was not well answered.

Based on the responses, it would appear that students interpreted the question as 'describe how network access is controlled', rather than 'describe how access to the resources on the network is controlled'.

Linked descriptions need a statement and an expansion. Some responses only supplied the statement or the expansion.

Access rights are set up by the centre through the network meaning it prevents and allows selective ~~p~~ users to view/^{edit} the data. This is done ~~by~~ through login credentials like user & passwords.

This response was awarded two marks.

The resources can be locked based on access rights. ~~So, only use the~~ Access rights should ~~be~~ ensure that only authorised people can see all data and limit what other unauthorised users can see. Access rights are usually connected to a person's username.

This response was awarded two marks.

Q04b

This question was quite well answered. Many responses achieved two of the four marks.

There appears to have been better understanding of the maths needed to answer this question than similar questions in previous years.

$$\frac{36 \times 8 \times 1024 \times 1024 \times 1024}{20.58 \times 10 \times 10^5} = 1502.6 \text{ seconds}$$

This response achieved four marks. Alternative expressions were awarded.

$$\frac{3.6 \times 8 \times 1024 \times 1024 \times 1024}{20.58 \times 1000^2 \times 60}$$

This response achieved three marks.

$$\frac{4.6 \times 10^9 \times 8 \times 1024 \times 1024}{20.58 \times 10^6 \times 1}$$

This response achieved two marks.

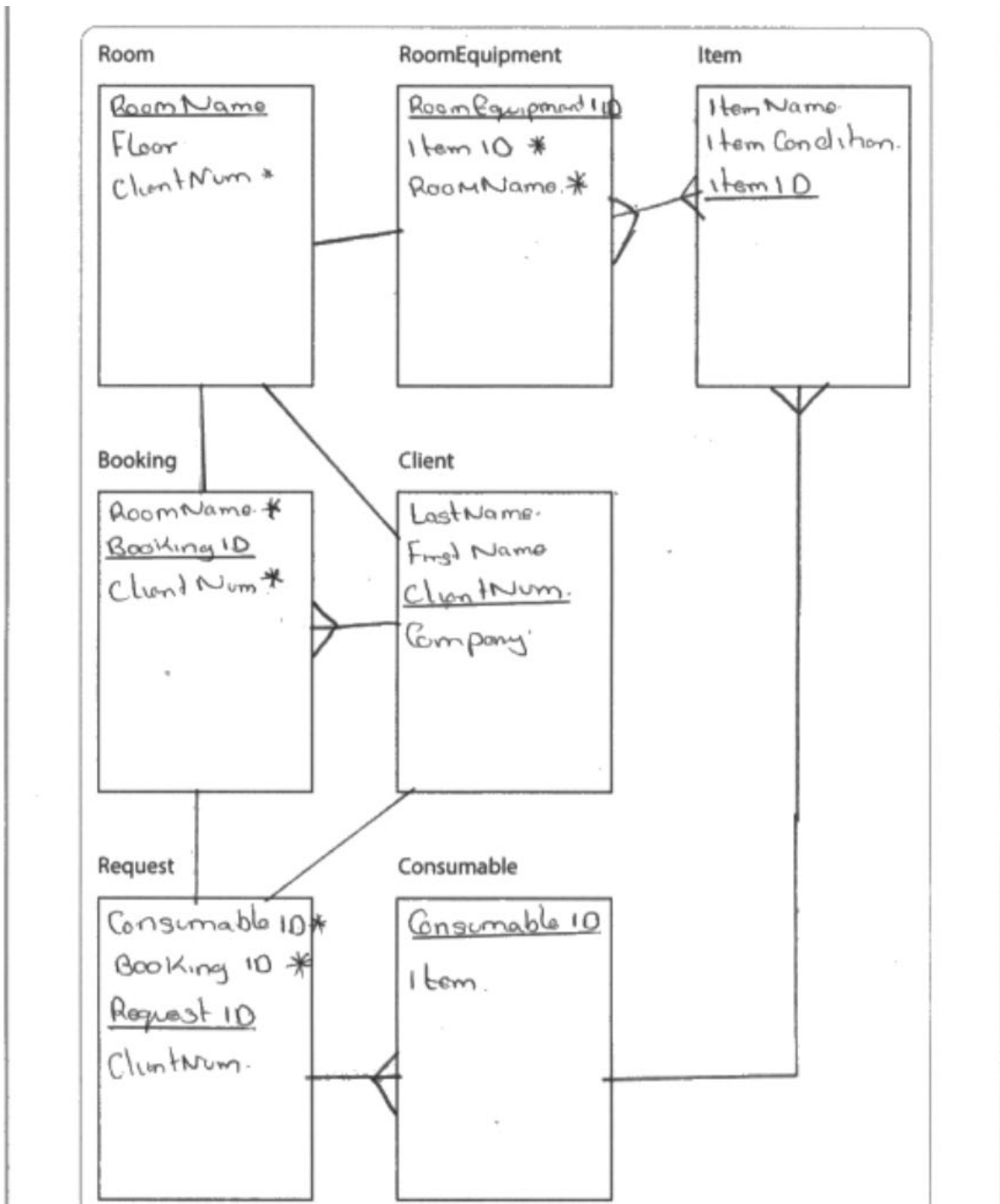
It does not provide enough 1024s to demonstrate an understanding of Gibibytes.

Q04c

This question was very well answered. Most responses achieved eight or more marks.

Responses were able to place the primary keys for at least three of the tables. Some responses indicated that the composite key required for the Request table was either a foreign composite or a primary composite. In this question, those keys are both, so need both underlines and asterisks.

The mark for the 1:1 relationship between RoomEquipment and Item was rarely awarded.



This response achieved eight marks.

This is typical of marks in this range, with the relationships being missed frequently.

Q05

This question was well answered. The full range of marks was awarded for this question.

Most responses achieved high marks in Level 2 and there were some Level 3 marks.

Most of the responses were able to suggest devices that fit the categories of computers, peripherals, and storage. Many specific devices were named.

Many responses provided reasons or justification for their choice, but this was not always in the context of the scenario.

Fewer responses were able to target specific devices to individual groups of users, with justification based on that user, to fully demonstrate evaluation.

Game designers

The company should buy desktop computers for design team since they have to work long hours drawing animations on the computer. To draw the designs, there will be a need to use graphic tablet which is especially used for digital drawings. Plus, this team needs to use cloud storage for sharing designs with other designers or departments and for a backup they can use an external hard disk drive for secure backup.

Programmers and testers

They should have a high performance laptop computers because they have to write the codes for long hours and the testing process will ~~also~~ takes up ~~storage space~~ lots of storage space. Since, the built-in keyboard of laptops are not as big as separate one so they will need bigger keyboard with high flexibility for wrist rest and hand movements. To store the codes and

data from testing, they will need HDD with high storage capacity to store and cloud storage to share and store data as a backup.

Consultants

They will need laptop computers because they have to meet with customers virtually and have to work while on the move. As they need to prepare for meeting with clients, they will need high quality web cams and the mouse to do some tasks like drag and drop when sending data to customers. They will have to use cloud storage to share data to customers as the meetings are done virtually.

Staffs

They will need laptop computers to work while on move ~~or~~ and they will need to make ~~reports~~ financial reports too. They will also need to store data about financial, staffs hiring and payroll so they will need large storage capacity such as HDD or SSD and cloud storage for sharing data. As they will mainly ~~to~~ be in charge of reports or statements so mouse will be needed to do drag and drop because built-in touchpad is not really reliable.

This response achieved 12 marks.

This response demonstrates evaluation with all employees acknowledged, with devices appropriate for their roles, with justification for their choice.

To begin with, devices like keyboard, mouse, advanced generation monitors, speakers / headphones, are crucial for all employees in the company working in the tech division.

Game designers would also need digital pens which connect to a tablet or big screen through bluetooth because designing requires hand drawing. Game designers can store data through cloud platforms since it can be accessed by other employees in the same division in case of the need of a group project. A high performance computer and/or tablet is required because of the large files they work with.

Programmers would as well must have high performance computers, with advanced technology monitors with brightness features are recommended too, not only.

because they spend long in front of the screen but because coding can really be ~~harmful~~ harmful for the eyes due to the small letters / numbers. Testers may also need headphones to ensure the ~~at~~ audio quality of the games is good. Programmers can also store data on cloud for group projects, but I would say hard disks may be needed too.

When it comes to consultants, besides computers, keyboard and mouse, they will also need webcam and headsets / microphone for meetings with the customers.

The other employees working in accounting, hiring and payroll do ~~not~~ require any special peripheral devices, ~~except for perhaps the payroll division~~

This response achieved 10 marks.

It is a good example of a Level 3 response that is concise and does not need all the lines provided.

All employees have access to a network ~~and~~ and the internet.

Spacel game should allow the employees to use different computers, ~~access to~~ different groups. Game designers may use desktops and graphics tablet to plan and design the game peripherals it can be stylus, mouse and keyboard attached. Game designers can use flash memory to store the plans and design (e.g. a pen drive).

Writers, programmers, and testers will use ~~com~~ desktop computers that have RAID storage to create and store the game as it needs larger data capacity. Since RAID is well suited for complex tasks like Data Mining, peripheral such as

Keyboard and mouse to create and joystick joysticks are used to test the game.

Spallie Games can buy their consultants a laptop, ^{or desktop} to schedule meetings and use video conferencing tools to have virtual meetings and webcams can be used as peripheral. They can use flash memory, or optical disk ~~as~~ such as CD, DVD or pen drive to display overview or project other game projects.

Spallie Games can buy their ~~own~~ laptop or a supercomputer to perform calculations and ~~store data~~ other complex data work such as hiring and allocate financing goals and use payroll to credit ~~charge~~ payment whenever needed.

This mark achieved five marks.

This response lists many devices, some of which have been targeted to specific users. There are some inaccuracies. Overall, it is not well-developed.

Summary

- Use subject-specific terminology and notation accurately in all responses
- Provide a statement and a linked expansion for two-mark explain and describe questions
- Identify the requirements of the response from the command word used in the question
- Ensure your response is phrased in the context of the question, if there is one
- Use the bullets provided in the large essay question to structure your response

