



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In ICT (4IT1) Paper 01

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Introduction

The examination for this unit requires students to explore how current and emerging digital technologies impact on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. This is an un-tiered paper that has been specifically designed so that easier questions are more prevalent earlier in the paper, becoming progressively more difficult later on. This paper has been designed to be accessible, so that candidates of all ability ranges will find questions that are both challenging and interesting throughout. Candidates will find that 'command words' are used consistently in the paper to indicate the type of response expected. It is hoped that candidates will demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be confident users of ICT.

Successful candidates often provided more detailed responses, providing more than just simple statements, including examples and reasons where expansions or explanations were required.

In the extended questions, candidates must demonstrate a better understanding of the requirement to 'discuss'. Candidates should develop their use of subject-specific and technical language, and avoid giving generic responses, responding in the context of the question.

- **1b:** Limited responses on 'convenience,' well-answered on 'time' and 'lack of travel.'
- **1c:** Mostly scored 1 mark, responses were scrambled and couldn't be read or understood.
- **1f:** Generally met the mark scheme, common errors in naming 2 3rd party payment providers.
- **1gii:** Poorly answered, few responses related to inequity or lack of inclusion.
- **1iii:** Main correct answer - 'lack of a server,' surprised by few responses on sharing and requesting of resources.
- **1iiii:** Poorly answered, most responses related to playing media files.
- **1iiv:** Well-answered, all mark points covered by a wide range of pupils.
- **1iv:** Very poorly answered, few worthy of marks.
- **2a:** Very few mentioned virtual memory, numerous responses on the increase in processor speed.
- **2ci:** Well-answered.
- **2cii:** Most got the idea of optical being slower and less robust, few mentioned solid-state uses electrical charges. Some talked about optical disk drives having moving parts. Some discussed power usage. Storage capacity being lower in optical media was mentioned, but it's in the question, so not acceptable. Portability was also discussed.
- **2dii:** Poorly answered, common errors including virtual memory, organizing files, keeping track, data easier to find.
- **2div:** Answered well, many referred to editing, few to the large community of users, disappointing references to source code.
- **3a:** Popular error in naming types of social media or simply stating social media.
- **3c:** Some very good answers, popular error to make reference to 'terms & policies' along with 'encryption'.
- **3d:** Common mistake to make reference to 'cookies' and transactional data in this question.
- **3fii:** Common error in the reduction in file size, well-answered on faster upload and less data used.
- **3fiv:** Learners made references to improving search engine results, very few made reference to building a website and using keywords in the metadata.
- **3g:** Quite well answered. Affordability was the most common reason given, but some failed to expand for a second mark. Some gained the mark for geographical location but didn't talk about poor infrastructure. Some talked about political and religious reasons for unequal access. Lack of education was mentioned, as well as lack of internet in some areas, but not enough to gain marks.
- **4a:** Well-answered in general, common error to discuss the use of speakers.
- **4b:** Well-answered question with good references made to tethering / hotspot/ WiFi and Bluetooth.

- **4ci:** Most mentioned saving time/being quicker, with most implying that the ticket does not need to be read/inputted manually. Few talked about validation or linking to info in the database. Some missed the point and talked about it being more secure. Others talked about barcode scanners used in supermarkets, ignoring that the question relates to venue staff.
- **4ciii:** Very little mention of shielding in responses, many incorrect responses made reference to time / faster, more secure, lower latency.
- **4civ:** Poorly answered, backups and storage scaling were the only points that were awarded marks.
- **4d:** Most focused on the individual feeling untrusted and uncomfortable about being watched, lack of privacy. This was justified by the protection the surveillance gave the concert-goers. Very few mentioned anything regarding policies needed or training to staff, given.
- **5a:** Many pupils shared the benefits on staff, not the venue. Popular answer was marketing, improved communication and the global market but rarely got the second marks.
- **5c:** Some struggled to gain 4 marks, some linked to cyber security and the issues of hacking. Many also discussed being distracted by homelife. Responses often focussed on isolation due to lack of face-to-face interaction. Some mentioned the effect on physical health due to sitting in front of the screen all day. Few mentioned mental health.
- **5d:** Pupils could talk about how to dispose of devices and materials used to manufacture, but many failed to discuss devices when in use. There was a focus on non-renewable energy and the fact that non-renewable resources were being used to manufacture digital products. Also on the disposal of the devices. Some mentioned building servers in cold climate areas and near water to use hydroelectric power to run factories.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, students are offered the following advice:

- Expand and explain answers using examples and reasons, especially where more than a simple statement or list is requested
- Where a context or scenario is provided, respond with the context of the question in mind
- Read and interpret the question prompt to focus on the specific requirements and provide more relevant responses that address the critical aspects of the question.
- When required to give one other example/reason, ensure the response is discrete from the given example/reason
- Allocate time to plan responses to the extended questions

