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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

October 2023

Pearson Edexcel International Primary  
Curriculum in Computing (JCP11) Paper 01

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It was good to see that most candidates attempted all questions and the one hour allowed for the examination did not seem to be an issue.

The question paper consists of two sections.

Section A – assessed the content of the computer science topics.

Section B – assessed the content of the digital technology topics.

The paper included multiple-choice, closed-response questions and short-open questions.

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## Section A – Computer Science

- Question 1** This was a multiple-choice question.
- The majority of candidates found it relatively easy to identify that a camcorder is used to record a video.
- Question 2** This was a multiple-choice question.
- Compared to question one, fewer candidates achieved the mark, but it was still very well-answered with many correctly identifying that a keyboard is an input device.
- Question 3** This was a multiple-choice question.
- This was a very well-answered question with most candidates correctly identifying that a fingerprint is part of biometric security.
- Question 4** The topic of this question was cyberattacks.
- (a) Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.
- Most candidates correctly completed the sentence by recognising the sentence was describing social engineering.
- (b) Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting two words from the choices given.
- This was well-answered. Over two-thirds of candidates achieved one mark with over half achieving both marks.
- Question 5** This was a multiple-choice question.
- Candidates are getting better at understanding what the World Wide Web (WWW) is. There was an improvement compared to past papers where this topic has been included.
- Question 6** This was a multiple-choice question.
- The majority of candidates correctly identified that streaming would be the method used to watch an event online.
- Question 7** Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.
- Candidates found this moderately difficult. Around half achieved the mark by indicating a licence would need to be checked.
- Question 8** Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting two words from the choices given.
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This was quite well-answered with over two-thirds of candidates achieving at least one mark and approximately half achieving both. Where candidates achieved only one mark, they tended to miss the mark for radio waves.

**Question 9** This was a multiple-choice question.

Candidates found this question moderately difficult. Around a third achieved the mark for correctly identifying that a forum is a discussion area on a website.

**Question 10** Candidates were to explain why two given search terms produced different results.

Candidates found this question difficult with few achieving even one mark. The main problem was that candidates tried to turn the answer into what they clearly did know about i.e. exact match keyword searching. This was not what this question was about.

**Question 11** Candidates were to give one reason a user may create a bookmark for a webpage.

There were a number of candidates who described a bookmark in a physical book – this was not markworthy. The answer had to be relevant to a webpage. This accounted for quite a lot of zero marks.

**Question 12** Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was quite a well-answered question with many candidates achieving the mark for correctly identifying that it was about digital etiquette.

**Question 13** Candidates were to draw lines between health issues and their causes.

This was a well-answered question with most candidates achieving at least one mark. This tended to be the mark for matching eyestrain to looking at the screen for too long. Fewer recognised that RSI is caused by repeatedly performing the same movement.

**Question 14** Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

This was quite a well-answered question with many candidates achieving the mark for correctly identifying the benefit given was of a network.

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**Question 15** Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.

The majority of candidates achieved the mark by recognising that threatening someone online is a form of cyberbullying.

**Question 16** Candidates were to give one reason for producing an algorithm before writing a program.

Where candidates had answered the question but failed to achieve a mark, it tended to be because they were describing an algorithm e.g. a set of rules etc. This question wanted a **reason** for producing one before writing a program. Approximately half of the candidates achieved the mark.

**Question 17** Candidates were given a flowchart.

- (a) Candidates were asked to describe what the flowchart did.

This was quite well-answered with approximately two-thirds of the candidates achieving at least one mark and well over half two marks. There was no set pattern as to why full marks were not achieved. Some omitted to say a number was input, others were vague e.g. divide the number by 2 without saying it was to find the remainder. Others omitted setting the number to even or odd or the output.

- (b) Candidates were asked to identify two variables used in the flowchart.

Candidates still miss the mark here by giving more than the variable name in their response e.g. **Output number type** rather than **number type, is the remainder equal to 0** rather than **remainder** etc. Giving the entire text in a box does not show understanding of what the variable is.

Over half of the candidates did not achieve any marks. Approximately a third achieved at least one mark.

- (c) Candidates were given input as an example of a structural component used in the flowchart and asked to identify two other structural components used.

A number of candidates gave input as one of their responses, this failed to achieve a mark as it was the component given to them in the question. However, it was a well-answered question on the whole, with over two-thirds achieving at least one mark.

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**Question 18** Candidates were given two versions of an algorithm and asked to complete the missing steps.

Candidates found this question difficult with over half failing to achieve any marks. The most common mark awarded was for inputting the last word/second word. Very few achieved the last word/second word = temp mark.

**Question 19** Candidates were told that a program is used to calculate the number of empty seats on a coach.

- (a) Candidates were to give the data type for the number of empty seats.

Candidates must be able to differentiate between integer and real numbers. In section A giving the answer number will not achieve a mark. In this instance the number of empty seats could only be an integer.

- (b) This was a multiple-choice question.

Less than half the candidates correctly identified that a subtraction would be needed to calculate the number of empty seats on the coach.

**Question 20** This was a multiple-choice question.

The same problem occurred as in question 19(b), candidates must be able to differentiate between char and text data types. In this instance the letter A is a single character indicating char is the correct data type.

The majority of candidates failed to achieve this mark.

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**Question 21** Candidates were given part of a flowchart and a description of what the flowchart was used for.

Candidates were to complete the missing step.

Candidates found this question difficult with approximately 10% achieving the mark.

Where the mark was not achieved a common reason was that candidates did not recognise how to keep a running total or that a running total was needed. Many repeated the step **Add 1 to the count**. Some had **add 1 to the total**, others had **display the number** and various other incorrect responses. A number did not give a response.

**Question 22** Candidates were given part of a flowchart and a description of what the flowchart was used for.

- (a) Candidates were told there was an error in the flowchart and told what was displayed when specific inputs were used.

They were asked to describe how to amend the flowchart to correct the error.

The majority of candidates failed to achieve any marks in the question. Many failed to realise the structure of the flowchart needed amending and suggested different inputs. Many stated what happened (which was given in the question) rather than how to amend the problem.

Questions where candidates are asked to describe how to correct the error will always require something to do with the structure of the flowchart changing.

- (b) Candidates were told that two variables were assigned the real data type and asked to give a reason why.

Candidates found this hard, as they did when determining when the integer data type should be assigned. Around a quarter of the candidates achieved this mark.

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**Question 23** Candidates were given part of a flowchart and a description of what the flowchart was used for. The flowchart had missing steps and a table that listed the missing steps.

Candidates had to complete the flowchart by adding the letters of the missing steps in the correct place.

It is surprising to see the number of candidates who write entire statements rather than the letters of the steps as instructed, it wastes precious time, though marks are awarded if the statements are correct.

This was a well-answered question with very few candidates failing to achieve at least one mark. Approximately half of the candidates achieved one mark and approximately 95% achieved all three marks.

**Question 24** Candidates were to circle two types of software that would be appropriate to use for the given purpose.

It was nice to see that very few candidates failed to achieve a mark from this question. Approximately 95% achieved the mark for correctly recognising that spreadsheet and word processing software would be the most appropriate to use.

**Question 25** This was a multiple-choice question.

Many of the candidates achieved the mark for correctly identifying that saving your work regularly will help to make sure it wasn't lost if the computer crashes.

**Question 26** Candidates were given a timetable for a school holiday club.

Candidates were to draw lines from the letters to where particular types of formatting were used.

Approximately 85% of candidates achieved at least one mark. The most common mark awarded was for correctly identifying shading. The least common mark was for correctly identifying right alignment.

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**Question 27** Candidates were given part of a database table.

- (a) Candidates had to circle one record on the table.

Surprisingly nearly 75% of candidates failed to achieve the mark. In many cases they circled field names, or fields or data values. Some circled the entire database table and others all three of the records.

- (b) This was a multiple-choice question.

Over half of the candidates correctly identified that the data type for Paid? would be currency. Candidates had more success with the Section B data types compared to Section A data types.

- (c) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was very well answered with nearly 80% of candidates correctly identifying that =23.99 would produce the results.

**Question 28** Candidates were given part of a spreadsheet.

- (a) This was a multiple-choice question.

Many candidates correctly identified that SUM(E2:E4) would be needed to calculate the value in cell E5.

- (b) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was not so well answered with less than half the candidates correctly identifying a multiplication would be needed to calculate the Total for each book.

**Question 29** Candidates were given a slide.

- (a) This was a multiple-choice question.

This was a very well-answered question with the majority of candidates correctly identifying that the component labelled A was an image.

- (b) Candidates were to draw a line from B to where an internal hyperlink was used.

The majority of candidates who did not achieve this mark did so because they drew a line to the button that would be an external hyperlink.

**Question 30** Candidates were shown two images that had been drawn using a graphics program,

- (a) Candidates were to complete the sentence by selecting one word from the choices given.
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This was very well-answered with the majority of candidates achieving both marks for identifying that image A was drawn using triangles and rectangles.

Where two marks were not achieved it tended to be because candidates confused rectangles with squares or chose circle as they were looking at image B.

- (b) Candidates were to describe the steps they would take to amend image A to image B.

Just over half of the candidates achieved at least one mark with around 25% both marks. Where marks were not achieved it tended to be because no attempt was made, or the answers were too vague to understand what the candidate was trying to describe.

**Question 31** Candidates were to explain one way the amount of e-waste could be reduced.

Fewer candidates responded with answers such as **empty the computer's recycle bin to get rid of unwanted files**, though quite a few did have similar responses to this.

Over half of the candidates achieved one mark and approximately 20% both marks. There were some very good responses seen. The most common responses were to do with recycling.

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