



General Certificate in Education

Computing 6510

CPT3 Practical Systems Development

Report on the Examination

2007 examination - June series

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

General

Candidates who had created for themselves a solution which they understood, who had included coding or equivalent instructions (clearly annotated where appropriate) of significant steps and actual hard copies of payslips, centre lists, lists of examiners and their centres and provided a summary for all subjects showing the total number of candidates and total payments made, did very well in this paper. It was pleasing to note that most candidates had followed the brief carefully and produced payslips but unfortunately not all contained the details required by the exercise.

Documentation

Many candidates produced documentation of more than 100 pages in length. Centres are yet again reminded of the advised length of 20 to 25 pages and that the pages must be numbered consecutively in the bottom right hand corner. Also, documentation is much easier to deal with, both in an examination and by an examiner, if it is treasury tagged at the top left hand corner and not placed in binders, folders etc. The Practical Exercise Cover Sheet must be signed by the teacher and attached to the front of the documentation.

Evidence

Nearly all candidates clearly indicated where the examiner should find evidence when the question asked for it. However some candidates did not put the question number in the margin next to their evidence.

Hard copies

It has been emphasized in past examiner's reports that a hard copy means just that, not a screen dump inserted in a page of text. The brief stated that hard copy output of payslips, centre lists, lists of examiners and their centres and a summary for all subjects showing the total number of candidates and total payments made were required but an increased minority of candidates only included screen dumps of the centre lists (for subject and examiner) and payslips, these could not be credited.

Question 1

This question was generally well answered with most candidates scoring over half marks. However, not all candidates could describe their planned validation checks. Part (c) was generally well answered but centres are again reminded that number is not an allowable response for a data type.

Question 2

This question was well answered with candidates showing an understanding of the workings of the solution they had produced.

- (a) Generally well answered with a good description of the two calculations, with and without tax deduction.
- (b) Most candidates had produced a list of examiners and their centres for each subject; unfortunately a significant minority only included a screen dump of the list not the hardcopy requested. Candidates had obviously thought about the ordering required and gave some good descriptions of how they had produced their sorted list.

- (c) Candidates had used several methods to obtain a total payment and referenced their programming code or an expression in a form, report or query. Providing that a calculation had been attempted a reference to this was allowed and candidates could gain some or all of the marks available for the explanation. A few candidates incorrectly evidenced a printout of their results rather than the coding.
- (d) Candidates were asked to produce for each examiner a list of centres, showing centre number and number of scripts per centre. Candidates needed to state how their solution identified that the centres had been allocated to an examiner.

Question 3

- (a) Candidates needed to be precise in their answer as both 10000 and 79999 are allowable centre numbers.
- (b) Most candidates could clearly identify their use of normal and erroneous test data but many explanations were vague and only worth one of the two marks on offer. Fewer candidates could identify use of boundary test data or provide a suitable explanation. For example 'Boundary test data is data just inside and outside the boundary used to establish that the boundary validation has been set up correctly'.

Question 4

- (a) All that was required for the evidence for this part was a payslip with tax deducted and one without tax deducted. Weaker candidates incorrectly referenced pages that could not be used as a payslip, usually a report showing payments to all examiners. Also some candidates lost marks by careless referencing of payslips without tax deducted for (i) and with tax deducted for (ii) i.e. the wrong way round.
- (b) Few candidates provided clear criteria for the design of their payslips but where evidence of a planned design was included there were some excellent answers provided.

Question 5

Most candidates could name the legislation, the Data Protection Act, but few candidates could clearly state why the legislation is required.

Question 6

This question was well answered by most candidates.

Question 7

- (a) There were three marks available for this part of the question therefore to gain full marks candidates need to make three clear points. A good response would have identified how to allow for three rates of tax, how to select the appropriate tax rate and how to calculate the new payment or modify the existing calculation.
- (b) The question asked for items of documentation, not output from the system, so User Guides, annotated listings, data dictionaries etc were the expected responses not reports, payslips etc.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.