



General Certificate in Education

Computing 6511

CPT3 Practical Systems Development

Report on the Examination

2008 examination - June series

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General

It was pleasing to see that most candidates had followed the brief carefully and produced a simulation of the petrol pump and console displays. Many candidates produced excellent displays that were clearer than currently in use on petrol station forecourts!

Candidates' answers for questions that directly concerned the work they had done for the practical exercise were much better than their answers to questions of a more general nature. Candidates should be reminded that, *'Assessment of Module 3 is by written paper examination. The written paper examination will test a candidate's achievement in the AQA set practical exercise by a series of questions that will rely on evidence from the candidate's report on the practical exercise and knowledge, skill and understanding acquired from studying Modules 1, 2 and 3.'*

Documentation

Many candidates produced documentation of more than 100 pages in length. Centres are reminded that the Practical Exercise Cover Sheet must be signed by both the candidate and the teacher and attached to the front of the documentation. Also details of any materials used to complete the work need to be included. There was an increase on the number of candidates who divided their work into sections and then numbered the pages in each section. This is very confusing to the examiner and not recommended.

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.

Question 1

This question was generally well answered with most candidates scoring over half marks. Most candidates could explain their choice of data type and for part (c) give a good explanation if an alternative approach was taken. Part (d) was answered well by those candidates who had followed the instructions given for the design section of the practical exercise to include the four algorithms. However, some candidates had not included algorithms and could gain no credit for this part of the question.

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, but some candidates' answers lacked the detail required.
- (b) Candidates needed to explain how the seven segment display was simulated, rather than how the display was used. Those candidates who had written their own procedures gave very detailed explanations worth more than the 3 marks available.
- (c) Generally well answered.
- (d) Generally well answered.

Question 3

- (a) A surprisingly large number of candidates did not know what was meant by a program listing.

- (b) Most candidates could identify at least two steps they took to make their program listing easy to understand. Better candidates gave excellent answers supported by very readable code.

Question 4

- (a) Candidates who had followed the instructions in the practical exercise gave a good explanation of how their solution had reset the pump. Candidates needed to check their evidence very carefully because, for a successful test, the pump values needed to be reset to zero.
- (b) Not all candidates had included a test plan.
- (c) It was pleasing to see the rigorous approach that many candidates had taken to ensure the accuracy of their calculations.

Question 5

- (a) and (b) Candidates needed to be sure which of their displays was the pump and which the console. Design criteria were rarely well described with poor use of design terminology.

Question 6

This question was very poorly answered with many candidates showing little knowledge of the investigation methods open to a systems analyst.

Question 7

The majority of candidates chose a printer as the extra piece of hardware, but a wide range of answers were credited if the hardware suggested could have been connected to a computer system e.g. CCTV cameras.

Question 8

- (a) There were some excellent, well-rehearsed answers for this part of the question.
- (b) Poorly answered by many candidates.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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