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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (958/1)

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The number of candidates for this subject was 645. The percentage of candidates who obtained a full pass was 51.32%.

The achievement of the candidates for this subject according to grades is as follows:

Grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	F
Percentage	10.08	1.55	2.48	4.19	11.16	6.82	15.04	14.11	16.12	8.84	9.61

CANDIDATES' RESPONSES

PAPER 958/1

General comments

Overall, the quality of the question paper is moderate, not too easy and not too difficult. The quality of answers by candidates was good. The presentation of answers was clear and most candidates elaborated their answers well. Candidates' strength was in Question 6 for those who answered them. This is probably because Question 6 was about smartphone's usage and candidates were very familiar with the usage of smartphone especially on social media marketing question in part (c).

Some of the students could get high marks which were more than 80%. This reflected that the questions were not too difficult, but there were also candidates who did not get a good mark.

Most candidates answered Question 6 rather than Question 7. For those who answered Question 7, they might have been confused with the term flowchart in web design and several candidates presented flowchart as in a programming flowchart or a process of flowchart.

Comments on the individual questions

Question 1

Candidates were asked to explain ICT infrastructure and its components and then name common applications. Most candidates gave examples of the name of smartphone apps that could be used by entrepreneurs instead of the types of applications to be used by entrepreneurs.

Question 2

Candidates were asked to explain types of malicious codes and its effect. Most candidates missed to state that a worm duplicates itself.

Question 3

Candidates were asked to explain the principle of design applied on a slide. Most candidates who answered correctly could explain what were good with Diagram *S* compared to Diagram *T* but many lost marks due to not stating the terms of the principle of design.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to calculate audio file size. Most candidates did not answer this question, may be because the question involved calculations that required them to recall a formula. Candidates either did not attempt this question at all or attempted incorrectly.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to describe team members of a multimedia project. Most candidates managed to answer this question up to the point of naming their friends who were probably involved in the assignment on this. For those who answered incorrectly, they gave the answers of multimedia development phases such as development, testing, alpha and beta development as well as delivery which were incorrect.

Question 6

Candidates were asked questions relating to smartphone. Similar with question 1, most candidates were confused with the term application that was meant to be the usage. Most candidates stated the name of smartphone apps. Additionally, several candidates missed the positive tone of the preamble and instead gave a negative impact of smartphone apps that they described in part (i).

Question 7

Candidates were asked to design a website. Most candidates misunderstood the term flowchart and gave a programming or a process flowchart that led them to lose nearly 7 marks.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (958/2)

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The number of candidates for this subject was 626. The percentage of candidates who obtained a full pass was 58.15%.

The achievement of the candidates for this subject according to grades is as follows:

Grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	F
Percentage	11.66	5.91	7.35	5.43	8.31	11.50	7.99	5.43	5.59	2.88	27.96

CANDIDATES' RESPONSES

PAPER 958/2

General comments

In general, most candidates were able to provide correct answers to some of the questions. For questions at the simple level, more than half of the candidates were able to provide the correct answers. For questions at the moderate level of difficulties, about 40% to 50% of the candidates were able to provide correct answers.

Most candidates attempted to answer the questions and that could be considered the strength of the paper.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

For part (a), the question required candidates to describe an assembler, a compiler and an interpreter of programming language translator.

For part (b), the candidates were required to give one example of any programming language. Most of the candidates were able to give the correct example.

Question 2

For part (a) to part (e), the question required candidates to write C statements from the given instruction. These questions intend to test the candidate's ability to write C statements. Many of the candidates were able to provide the correct answers.

Question 3

The question required candidates to identify one run-time error and four syntax errors from the given C program. For part (b), the question required candidates to modify the program given by replacing the value of h to 13 and display the value of m up to three decimal places. The questions tested their knowledge on debugging skills.

Question 4

The question required candidates to write a function prototype, function definition and function call. The question was on the functions. This question was considered quite difficult for candidates to answer even though the domain was very common and simple.

Question 5

For part (a), the question required candidates to write an array declaration statement.

For part (b), the question required candidates to write a code segment in C to initialise an array weight and display the maximum value from the given table.

The question was on array and the skill to declare arrays. Most of the candidates were able to provide the correct answers in part (i) but not in part (ii).

Question 6

Most candidates answered this question.

For part (a), the question required candidates to draw a flowchart which accepted the marks for co-curricular activities, calculated the average, determined and printed the grade of each student.

For part (b), the question required candidates to write code segment in C for the flowchart in part (a).

Many candidates had good skills to draw the required flowchart. Most of the provided flowchart was correct in terms of its usage.

Question 7

For part (a), the question required candidates to construct an algorithm for the given problem.

For part (b), the question required candidates to write a program in C based on the algorithm in part (a).

The question was quite straightforward. It intended to assess the candidate's ability to create an algorithm and convert it to the C codes. It was a High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) question even though the domain knowledge was quite simple, it required the candidates to plan, understand the domain and the language constructs to be used to answer the question.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (958/3)

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The number of candidates for this subject was 622. The percentage of candidates who obtained a full pass was 55.30%.

The achievement of the candidates for this subject according to grades is as follows:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Percentage	12.06	1.77	6.59	2.73	10.77	8.52	12.86	11.41	12.06	7.07	14.15

CANDIDATES' RESPONSES

PAPER 958/3

General comments

Overall, the questions were varied and covered all Information Systems Development and Database topics in the syllabus. The questions were suitable with the level of knowledge acquired by the candidates as intended by the objectives stated in the syllabus. Questions in Section A were mostly at the understanding level of Bloom's taxonomy. Only one question in Section B which was Question 7 was quite challenging. Both languages used in the questions were simple and easy to understand.

As a whole, candidates answered the questions in sequence. Most scripts were presentable and understandable. However, it seemed that many candidates performed better in answering implementation (Q4a, Q6) questions rather than concept questions. Although questions in Section A were mainly conceptual question, many candidates gave general and not specific answers. They explained things mainly on the surface and failed to get high marks.

Comments on the individual questions

Question 1

The question required candidates to state the responsibility of the personnel in the development of Information systems; (a) Manager (b) System Analyst (c) Programmer.

Many candidates were able to answer this question, but their answers were quite general.

Question 2

This question required candidates to state three types of testing that can be carried out by the tester and state three examples of testing for each type of testing mentioned. Many candidates were able to get some marks for this question.

Question 3

Based on the given statements, the question required candidates to give the type of data operations should be used to ensure the correct input data. The question also required candidates to describe input control procedure that should be used to ensure the accuracy of user input format for NAME and AGE.

Although many candidates were able to get marks for part (a), many were not able to answer part (b) well. Many candidates scored only 2 out of 4 marks.

Question 4

Part (a) required candidates to state three methods used to determine user's requirements, and draw a context diagram that describes the given situation. For part (b), candidates were asked to describe two activities in the maintenance phase.

Most candidates were able to answer part (a) very well. But part (b) was a challenge to most candidates. Only a few candidates were able to obtain full marks for this question while others could only get 1 or 2 marks even though the questions were straightforward from the syllabus.

Question 5

Based on the given table, the question required candidates to write SQL expressions. Many candidates performed well in parts (a), (b) and (c) but failed to give correct answers for parts (d) and (e).

Question 6

For this question, candidates were asked to draw an ER diagram to represent the short case given in the question. Most of the information was available in the case and quite straight forward. No additional assumptions is required.

Most candidates who chose this question were able to get good marks. Most candidates used Chen notation, but some candidates combined both Chen and Crow's Foot in which marks were deducted because of inconsistency notation.

Question 7

This question required candidates to normalise the given table. Prior to that, they were asked to determine the functional dependencies.

Very few candidates chose this question. Most candidates who chose this question were not able to obtain high marks.



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