

Cambridge International AS & A Level

COMPUTER SCIENCE

9608/12 October/November 2021

Paper 1 Theory Fundamentals MARK SCHEME Maximum Mark: 75

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2021 series for most Cambridge IGCSE[™], Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Question	Answer						
1	1 mark for each shaded set of rows						
	Statement	RAM	ROM				
	Stores data permanently		~				
	It is volatile	~					
	Stores the start-up instructions for the computer		~				
	Directly accessed by the CPU	~	~				
	Type of main memory	~	~				
	Stores currently running applications	~					
	Can be static or dynamic	✓					

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)(i)	2 bits	1
2(a)(ii)	2 marks for correct working, 1 mark for correct answer	3
	Working: • Pixels is 8 * 8 • Bytes = (2 * 8 * 8) / 8 // (2 * 64) / 8 Answer: 16 (bytes)	
2(b)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2	2
	 A metafile / wrapper that contains audio and video //that contains various different types of data Describes how the (encoded) data is stored Is not confined to any one codec / compression method Synchronises the different types of data (on playback) 	
2(c)	1 mark for each correct term	2
	 Spatial redundancy is when a sequence of consecutive pixels in the same frame have the same value. Temporal redundancy is when a pixel in the same location in two consecutive frames has the same value. 	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2	2
	 Cell phone network Satellite system Public Switched Telephone Network 	
3(b)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2	2
	Many correct answers, for example: • Server • Router • Gateway • Radio transmitter/receiver //WAP • Hub • Switch • Repeater	
3(c)	1 mark for name and max 2 marks for matching description	3
	 Parity check Counts if the number of 1s or 0s in each byte is odd or even Adds a bit to make the number odd or even Parity is re-calculated at receiving end and a change in parity indicates corruption 	
	 Echo check Receiver sends data back to sender Sender compares data received with original Sender either confirms or resends data 	
	 Automatic repeat request (ARQ) Uses error detection method to detect errors in individual packets Sends a negative acknowledgement if an error Uses timeouts to detect missing packets Automatically asks for a repeat of the data from the sender 	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(d)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2 per security measure, max 4 in total	4
	 e.g. Firewall denies access to data that does not conform to set rules maintains a blacklist/whitelist of IP addresses 	
	 Proxy denies access to data that does not conform to set rules prevents some requests ever reaching the server 	
	 Authentication makes use of usernames and strong passwords without a correct unique combination of characters data on the server cannot be accessed makes use of biometrics unique features of individuals that cannot be guessed makes use of two step verification a verification code is sent to a mobile phone or other device 	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2	3
	Compare instructionsArithmetic operationsData movement	
4(a)(ii)	1 mark only from	1
	 Unconditional and conditional jump instructions Input and output of data 	
4(b)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2 per register, max 6 in total	6
	 Program Counter Points to the <u>address</u> of the <u>next</u> instruction to be fetched So the address can be transferred to/from the MAR Memory Address Register Points to the address where data to be fetched/stored is located So data can be transferred to/from the MDR Memory Data Register Holds the data received from/ transmitted to memory So data can be received from/transmitted to the CIR Current Instruction Register Holds the data received from the MDR CIR stores the current instruction being processed 	

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	1 mark per correct word	4
	The executable file does not contain the library routines.	
	A DLL file can be edited without having to recompile the calling program.	
	One drawback of a DLL file is that the main program could stop working if the DLL file is corrupted .	
5(b)	1 mark for name, 1 mark per bullet point to max 3 for description	4
	 Interpreter Converts high level language code into low level code Translates and runs one line at a time Stops when an error occurs Allows errors to be corrected in real time // errors can be corrected and translation continued from that point Compiler Converts high level language code into low level code Translates the whole program before attempting to run it 	
	 Creates an executable file/object code if there are no errors Generates a report of all the errors 	
5(c)	1 mark per bullet point to max 2	2
	 Formal / legal recognition of ownership // To protect her intellectual property rights Formal / legal restrictions on the use of the program 	

Question	Answer	Marks
6	1 mark per bullet point to max 2 per utility program, max 4 in total	4
	 File compression Reduces the file size by using algorithms to change the data which can be either lossy or lossless 	
	 Defragmenter Finds files that are split across the disk and moves the blocks that make up each file to be contiguous Collates free space 	

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Question		Answer					Ма
7	1 ma	r k p	er pa	air of rows (shaded and unshaded)			
	Α	в	С	Working space	х		
	0	0	0		1		
	0	0	1		1		
	0	1	0		1		
	0	1	1		1		
	1	0	0		1		
	1	0	1		1		
	1	1	0		0		
	1	1	1		0		



Question		An	swer		Marks	
8(c)	1 mark for the shaded rows and 1 mark for the unshaded rows					
	Statement	DML	DDL			
	ADD PRIMARY KEY		✓			
	ALTER TABLE		✓			
	SELECT FROM	~				
	INNER JOIN	~		-		
	CREATE DATABASE		\checkmark	_		
8(d)	 mark per bullet point to max 2 per validation method, max 4 in total Presence check to make sure the phone number is entered // to make sure the field is not left empty Length check to make sure there are a maximum of 14 characters 					
8(e)	1 mark for a correct answer An attribute (or set of attributes) that could be a primary key					
8(f)	 mark per bullet point to An attribute that can be for faster searching An attribute that is a constructionbut is not the prima 	max 2 be indexed candidate ke ry key	У		2	

Question	Answer	Marks
8(g)	1 mark per bullet point to max 5	5
	 The disk has one or more platters made of aluminium/glass The platters are coated with ferrous oxide which is capable of being magnetised The platters/disks are mounted on a central spindle. The disks are rotated at high-speed Each surface of the disk has a read-write head mounted on an arm positioned just above the surface Electronic circuits control the movement of the arm and hence the heads The surface of the platter/disk is divided into concentric tracks and sectors The data is encoded as a magnetic pattern for each block When writing to disk, a variation in the current in the head produces a variation in magnetic field on the disk When reading from disk, a variation in magnetic field produces a variation in current through the head 	

Question	Answer				
9	1 mark per correct description				
	Register transfer notation	Description			
	MAR \leftarrow [PC]	The data stored in the Program Counter is passed to the Memory Address Register			
	$PC \leftarrow [PC] + 1$	The Program Counter is incremented			
	$MDR \leftarrow [[MAR]]$	The data in the address pointed to by the Memory Address Register is passed to the Memory Data Register			

Question	Answer			
10(a)	1 mark for the correct answer	1		
	256			
10(b)	1 mark for each correct answer	2		
	Smallest: –128			
	Largest: +127			

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