0417 Syllabus changes 2010 to 2011

Due to changes in the format of the syllabus it has not been possible to indicate changes to the syllabus for the 2011 update in the usual way (vertical lines in the margin). In lieu of this indication, this document outlines the substantive changes in content.

Section 1

There is a new learning outcome:

> g) describe recent developments in ICT

Section 2

The description of Chip readers and PIN pads has been updated to read:

> Payment cards, ID cards, door control systems, public transport tickets

The description of Optical Character Reader has been updated slightly to read:

> Inputting text to a computer ready for processing by another software package such as word processors, spreadsheets, databases etc.

The description of Light pen has been updated slightly to read:

> Where desktop space is limited, it is used instead of a mouse or for drawing applications where a graphics tablet might be too big.

Section 3

The description of DVD RAM has been updated to read:

> Same properties as DVD RW but quicker access and data can be overwritten more easily. Similar to floppies in nature but has 3000– 6000 times more storage and uses optical technology.

HD DVD has been removed from the syllabus

The description of Blu-ray has been updated to read:

> Capacities of 25Gb, 50Gb and 100 Gb. Used for storing films (movies). 25Gb equates to 2 hrs HDTV, 13hrs standard definition TV. It is possible to playback video on a disc while simultaneously recording HD video. (Will be) used for storage of PC data.

Sections 9 – 15

These sections have been reworded and reorganised in response to the feedback and queries received from centres and to clarify exactly what is expected of candidates. The small changes in substantive content that have been made are described below.

Section 11

The definition of a database field structure has been altered slightly so that it states that the candidate should define an appropriate database record structure and assign appropriate field/data types.
Candidates are asked to enter and amend data rather than just enter data. The syllabus also specifies that data should be entered with 100% accuracy.

Section 15

This section has been substantially reorganised, in particular the examples of HTML code have been removed from the syllabus. The set of skills that candidates might be tested on has not changed, with the following exception; candidates are being asked to:

Understand the need for low resolution images for data transfer.

Section 16

As well as ensuring consistency, candidates are now ask to understand the need for consistency.