Computing (958)

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The number of candidates for this subject was 444. The percentage of candidates who obtained a full pass was 71.17% with an increase of 0.62% compared to the previous year.

Grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	F
Percentage	3.15	3.38	8.33	11.49	14.87	14.41	15.54	7.88	11.04	3.83	6.08

RESPONSES OF CANDIDATES

PAPER 958/1 (COMPUTING)

General Comments

The candidates' performances vary equally from low to high marks. Most of the candidates could answer quite well questions related to IT in daily life. However, they were not able to answer correctly for questions on C language.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

This question required candidates to have knowledge on how `while` loop works in C language. Many candidates scored 4 full marks, but some of them failed to answer perfectly, especially to draw the initialisation box and the correct flow for looping of `while 1 <= 100`.

Question 2

This question was well answered by the candidates.

In part (*a*), most candidates were able to give the correct name of the social networks.

In part (*b*), most candidates were able to state the advantages and disadvantages of the social networks.

Question 3

Most of the candidates failed to answer this question correctly.

The candidates' answers showed that they lacked the understanding of the concept of centralised processing and decentralised processing and its applications.

Question 4

Most candidates could calculate the values of `y, x, k, m, x` and `j` as shown in the program. However, they failed to write the correct output that correspond to the given `printf` statements. For examples, `k = 0.6` instead of an integer `0`, and `m = 1.0` instead of `1.00`.

Question 5

This question required candidates to understand an array in C programs.

Almost all candidates made efforts to answer this question, but the answers given showed that they lacked the understanding of assigning characters to an array.

In part (*a*), most candidates who answered wrongly could not differentiate between the index element and the value element.

In part (*b*), most candidates failed to treat values of `Computing958` as characters.

In part (*c*), very few candidates could write `for` statements as required.

Question 6

Many candidates did not attempt this question.

In part (*a*), most candidates named hackers and cracker as unauthorised users.

In part (*b*), the candidates unfortunately defined the unauthorised users instead of describing their activities.

In part (*c*), almost all candidates could answer this part well. Most of the marks earned by the candidates were from the question on three positive impacts of convergence of technology.

Question 7

The question required candidates to explain the importance of password and what constitute a good password.

In part (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), generally, most candidates were able to answer well.

In part (*d*), most candidates failed to answer this part in the context of accessing bank account.

Question 8

In part (*a*), generally, most candidates were able to answer well.

In part (*b*), most candidates did not know the tasks done by the operating system which consisted of the file management, the memory management and the input or output control.

In part (*c*) and (*d*), most candidates could give the examples of the operating system, but they failed to name the computers that use the system.

Question 9

This question was poorly answered by the candidates. Given a total number of cars, the candidates were required to write a pseudocode, and then, the program to identify the thousands, hundreds, tens and ones digits of the given numbers. Most candidates identified the required digit by inputting one by one manually. Most of them failed to calculate the digit using mathematical formula and thus, gave an incorrect code of the program in C.

Question 10

In part (*a*), most candidates failed to identify the expected output from the given values.

In part (*b*), most candidates failed to trace the expected output from the given code segment.

PAPER 958/2 (COMPUTING)

General Comments

Generally, majority of the candidates performed well on system analysis and design and multimedia applications questions. Weaker candidates were confused with the terminology and their responses to these questions were disappointing. About half of the candidates failed to answer correctly the questions on SQL and E-R diagram.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

Most candidates elaborated the data system development life cycle (SDLC) instead of the data flow diagram (DFD). Almost nobody could specifically state the deliverables of DFD. Hence, none of the candidates achieved full marks.

Question 2

Most candidates could explain the usage of databases in a bank, supermarket and school. However, most of them failed to name the specific information system relevant to the given sectors.

Question 3

In part (*a*), most candidates could answer correctly the advantages of the rapid application development (RAD) in terms of the reduction in cost and time.

In part (*b*), candidates were not able to answer this part well.

Question 4

Some candidates did not relate the benefits of using multimedia technology in a company's business. Rather, they emphasised on the benefits of using multimedia technology in devising handphones which actually violates the IP right of the manufacturer.

Question 5

In part (*a*), most candidates failed to differentiate between multimedia authoring tools and programming tools.

In part (*b*), most candidates could explain one function of multimedia authoring tools.

In part (c), most candidates could state one factor that promotes the legibility of a text.

In part (*d*), candidates were able to explain one good guideline for the factor that they had stated in (*c*).

Question 6

In part (*a*), the candidates could give the reason why the given table is in UNF.

In part (*b*), there were still candidates who could not transform the given table from UNF to 1NF.

Question 7

In part (*a*), surprisingly, not many candidates were able to reason out why the planning phase is important in SDLC.

In part (*b*), very few candidates were able to explain five documentations delivered from the planning phase which were the project scope report, the project costing report, the project requirements report, the project risk report and the project significant report.

In part (*c*), candidates could at least give two to three consequences when the planning phase is not performed correctly.

Question 8

In part (*a*), candidates were not competent in using SQL to create a database table.

In part (*a*), similarly, candidates were still weak in listing records which should be extracted from a particular table of a database using SQL.

Question 9

In part (*a*)(i), most candidates could not specify three Internet communication services which could enable two communicating parties to communicate at real-time.

In part (*a*)(ii), similarly, candidates were unable to specify three Internet communication services which could enable two communicating parties to communicate at different-time. They seem to interchange the services for the two types of communications.

In part (*b*), most candidates could describe one method to share the information using the Internet communication services.

Question 10

In part (*a*)(i), most candidates were competent in drawing entities with their associated attributes.

In part (*a*)(ii), however, most candidates were still weak in drawing a relationship that relate entities.

In part (*a*)(iii), similarly, candidates failed to denote the cardinalities of the relationships.

In part (*a*)(iv), most candidates could distinguish the primary key of each entity and the relationships.

In part (*b*), most candidates did not attempt this part of the question. Nevertheless, those who attempted the question were able to answer them quite well.