AS ICT
INFO2
Report on the Examination

2520
June 2018

Version: 1.0
**Question 1**
Almost all candidates gained some marks on this question, with three-quarters gaining full marks.

**Question 2**
The majority of candidates gained at least one mark. Common answers that did not warrant marks were about the digital divide or requirement for Internet access. These did not answer the question, which asked for disadvantages of email use.

**Question 3a**
This was generally well answered, with over half of candidates gaining more than half marks. Weaker candidates only compared the size of area covered, whilst stronger candidates mentioned differences in ownership, speed of transmission and typical connection media.

**Question 3b**
Most candidates gained at least half the marks available, with better candidates describing the types of persons able to access the different networks by giving good examples.

**Question 4a**
This question was answered well with almost two thirds of candidates gaining 5 or more of the marks available. A common misconception was that telephone numbers are data in number form. Because these can contain spaces they are, in fact, data in text form.

**Question 4b**
This question was generally answered well though some candidates gave answers that were about data output onto a screen. These answers could not be credited because the question asked for the reasons for data to be coded before input into an ICT system.

**Question 5a**
Almost half of candidates were awarded half or more of the marks available for this question. Weaker candidates tended not to give specific examples of the characteristics, or did not give answers that were in the context of the question – the design of a games console interface. Stronger candidates gave answers that described not only the software interface but also relevant aspects of the hardware interface.

**Question 5b**
Three quarters of candidates were able to gain half marks or more on this question. Many discussed the related health, social and societal issues that might result from playing computer games. Stronger candidates were able to present arguments that showed both the positive and the negative aspects. Weaker candidates tended to focus on the more negative aspects.

**Question 6a**
This question was generally well answered.

**Question 6b**
Many candidates had clearly learnt about backing up data in great detail. It was unfortunate that a large number could not then relate this to a ‘home’ setting, instead giving answers that were relevant to a commercial setting. These candidates gained fewer marks than those who specifically addressed their answers to the context of home users.
**Question 7**
Most candidates addressed the four topic areas given in the question. Stronger candidates discussed the topics in detail, providing good examples. This was particularly true when stronger candidates discussed how the technology of ICT had enabled people to telework.

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**Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](https://aqa.org.uk) page of the AQA Website.

**Converting Marks into UMS marks**

Convert raw marks into Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) marks by using the link below.

[UMS conversion calculator](https://aqa.org.uk)