



Cambridge International AS & A Level

COMPUTER SCIENCE

9618/23

Paper 23 Problem Solving & Programming

May/June 2022

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 May/June 2022 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level and Cambridge Pre-U components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **11** printed pages.



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	Marks																								
1(a)	<p>One mark per row</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pseudocode example</th> <th>Selection</th> <th>Iteration</th> <th>Assignment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FOR Index ← 1 TO 3 Safe[Index] ← GetResult() NEXT Index</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHERWISE : OUTPUT "ERROR 1202"</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>REPEAT UNTIL Index = 27</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INPUT MyName</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IF Mark > 74 THEN Grade ← 'A' ENDIF</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Pseudocode example	Selection	Iteration	Assignment	FOR Index ← 1 TO 3 Safe[Index] ← GetResult() NEXT Index		✓	✓	OTHERWISE : OUTPUT "ERROR 1202"	✓			REPEAT UNTIL Index = 27		✓		INPUT MyName			✓	IF Mark > 74 THEN Grade ← 'A' ENDIF	✓		✓	5
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1(b)(i)	<p>1 mark for any two rows correct 1 mark for all rows correct</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Expression</th> <th>Evaluation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AAA AND (Count > 99)</td> <td>FALSE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AAA AND (NOT BBB)</td> <td>TRUE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Count <= 99) AND (AAA OR BBB)</td> <td>TRUE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(BBB AND Count > 50) OR NOT AAA</td> <td>FALSE</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Expression	Evaluation	AAA AND (Count > 99)	FALSE	AAA AND (NOT BBB)	TRUE	(Count <= 99) AND (AAA OR BBB)	TRUE	(BBB AND Count > 50) OR NOT AAA	FALSE	2														
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1(b)(ii)	<p>One mark from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To terminate a (conditional) loop when a value has been found When the variable can take <u>only one of two</u> possible values (Accept by example): When a variable is recording when an action has been done e.g. Yes or No // light is on 	1																								

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p>Dependent marks One mark for type; one mark for matching reason</p> <p>Answers include:</p> <p>Type: Adaptive Reason: To accommodate a change in the requirement / technology / legislation e.g. a new HTML version is available</p> <p>Type: Corrective Reason: The program does not operate as expected / contains a bug e.g. passwords are not hidden</p>	4

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	<p>One mark per point to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • module relationships / hierarchy / selection / repetition // how a problem is broken down • the parameters that are passed between the sub-tasks / modules // whether a module is a function or a procedure 	2
3(b)	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>One mark for each:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Four boxes linked as shown correctly labelled (Order of lower 3 not important) 2 Parameters to Sub1_A 3 Parameter to Sub1_B and return value 4 Parameters to Sub1_C 5 Selection diamond 	5

Question	Answer				Marks
4	One mark per row 2 to 7 to Max 4				4
	Type of test data	Example test value	Expected return value	Explanation	
	Normal	153	"PASS"	Value within the acceptable range	
	Abnormal	< 149	"FAIL"	Outside acceptable range / too small	
	Abnormal / Boundary	149	"FAIL"	Maximum unacceptable	
	Boundary / Extreme / Normal	150	"PASS"	Minimum acceptable	
	Boundary / Extreme / Normal	155	"PASS"	Maximum acceptable	
	Abnormal / Boundary	156	"FAIL"	Minimum unacceptable	
Abnormal	>156	"FAIL"	Outside acceptable range / too large		

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)(i)	<pre> TYPE Employee DECLARE EmployeeNumber : INTEGER DECLARE Name : STRING DECLARE Department : STRING DECLARE Born : DATE DECLARE Attendance : REAL ENDTYPE One mark for each: 1. TYPE Employee and ENDTYPE 2. Fields: EmployeeNumber and Name and Department 3. Field: Born 4. Field: Attendance </pre>	4
5(a)(ii)	<pre> <u>DECLARE Staff : ARRAY [1:500] OF Employee</u> </pre> <p>One mark per underlined phrase</p>	2

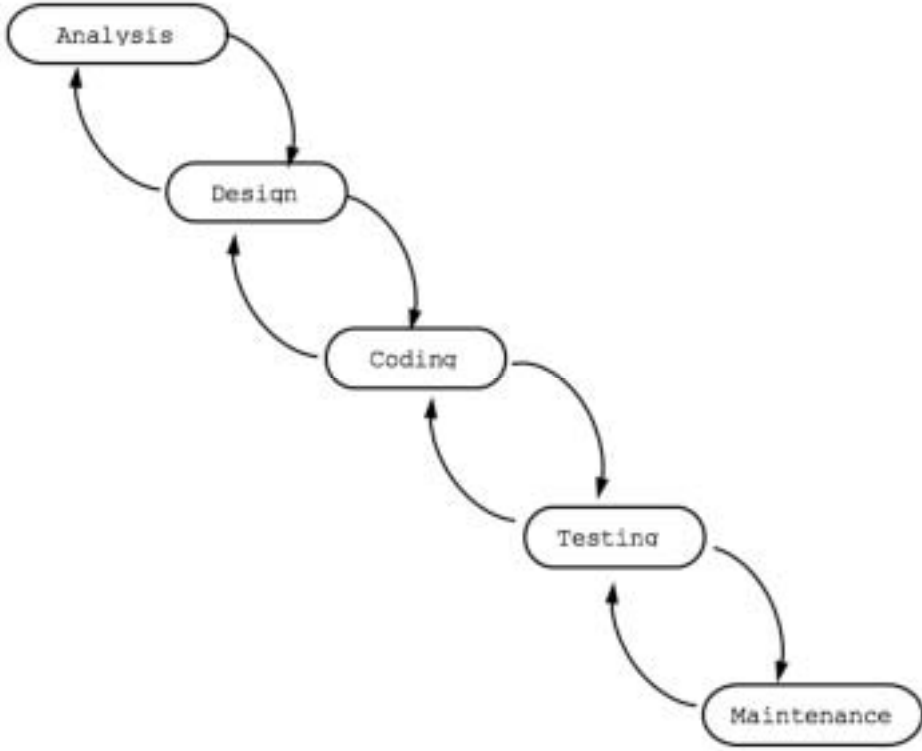
Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)(i)	Example answers to Max 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So that unused elements may be recognised when processing / searching • Otherwise the element may contain old / unexpected data 	1
5(b)(ii)	Use of any 'impossible' field value, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EmployeeNumber field. e.g. < 1 • An empty string / impossible string e.g. "EMPTY" for name or department • DOB a long time ago... • Zero / Negative value for attendance 	1
5(c)	<pre> PROCEDURE Absentees() DECLARE Index : INTEGER FOR Index ← 1 TO 500 IF Staff[Index].EmployeeNumber <> -1 THEN // not empty IF Staff[Index].Attendance <= 90 THEN OUTPUT Staff[Index].EmployeeNumber OUTPUT Staff[Index].Name ENDIF ENDIF NEXT Index ENDPROCEDURE </pre> <p>Marks as follows to Max 4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Procedure heading and ending and declaration of loop counter 2 loop through 500 elements 3 attempt to skip unused element 4 test Staff[Index].Attendance <= 90 in a loop 5 if so, output EmployeeNumber and Name fields in a loop 	4

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	<pre> FUNCTION Factorial(ThisNum : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER DECLARE Value : INTEGER IF ThisNum < 0 THEN Value ← -1 ELSE Value ← 1 WHILE ThisNum <> 0 Value ← Value * ThisNum ThisNum ← ThisNum - 1 ENDWHILE ENDIF RETURN Value ENDFUNCTION </pre> <p>Marks as follows to Max 6:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Function heading and ending including parameter and return value 2 Declaration and initialisation (to 1) of local Integer Value for result 3 Check for illegal value (< 0) 4 (Conditional) loop while ThisNum not zero // loop for ThisNum iterations 5 Attempt to form answer by successive multiplication 6 Completely correct MP5 7 Return INTEGER value correctly in both cases: ThisNum < 0 and >= 0 <p>ALTERNATIVE RECURSIVE SOLUTION:</p> <pre> FUNCTION Factorial(ThisNum : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER IF ThisNum > 1 THEN RETURN ThisNum * Factorial(ThisNum - 1) ELSE IF ThisNum = 1 OR ThisNum = 0 THEN RETURN 1 ELSE RETURN -1 ENDIF ENDIF ENDFUNCTION </pre> <p>Marks as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Function heading and ending including parameter and return value 2 Test for ThisNum > 1 3 and if so return product of Thisnum and Factorial(ThisNum-1) 4 Check for special case... 5 ...return 1 for 0 and 1 and return -1 for negative values 6 Return INTEGER value (correctly in all cases) 	6

Question	Answer	Marks														
6(b)	One mark for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rows A, B AND C • Each of rows D, E and F <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Label</th> <th>Text</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Is Num > 9?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>Set <Identifier> to Factorial(Num)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>OUTPUT "Factorial of ", Num, " is ", <Identifier></td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>Set Num to Num + 1 // Increment Num</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Label	Text	A	Is Num > 9?	B	YES	C	NO	D	Set <Identifier> to Factorial(Num)	E	OUTPUT "Factorial of ", Num, " is ", <Identifier>	F	Set Num to Num + 1 // Increment Num	4
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Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)(i)	The lines are output in an incorrect sequence / in the wrong order / not as they appear in the file	1
7(a)(ii)	<p>Description of error: (Max 2 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the final line of the file is not written into array element 3 • then outputting the elements in the sequence 1 to 3 will give the error. <p>Explanation of error correction: (Max 2 marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt at description of 'shuffle' • Copy Buffer[2] to Buffer[1] AND copy Buffer[3] to Buffer[2] • Read a line from the file and write it to Buffer[3] <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store the index of the last element written to buffer (the last line of the file) • Replace the FOR loop with something that starts at index • and then wraps around (MOD 3) <p>OR (two-loop solution, not using an array)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loop to read file to end to get number of lines • close and re-open file • read (and discard) lines to number of lines - 3, then loop to read and output last 3 lines 	4
7(b)	If the number of lines in the text file is a multiple of three	1

Question	Answer	Marks
7(c)	<p>Correct answers include:</p> $\text{LineNum} \leftarrow (\text{LineNum} \text{ MOD } 3) + 1 // ((\text{LineNum} + 3) \text{ MOD } 3) + 1$ <p>One mark for assignment to LineNum making any use of MOD One for completely correct statement</p>	2

Question	Answer	Marks
8(a)	 <p>One mark for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (at least) three intermediate shapes with at least one valid stage names Up and Down arrows between each pair of shapes Design – Coding – Testing labels in correct sequence 	3
8(b)	<p>Downward arrows: result from one stage is input / passed to the next</p> <p>Upward arrows: more work is required at a previous stage to complete the current stage</p>	2
8(c)	<p>For example:</p> <p>Iterative / Rapid Application Development (RAD)</p>	1

Question	Answer	Marks
9(a)	<pre> FUNCTION Generate() RETURNS STRING DECLARE Password, Group : STRING DECLARE NextChar : CHAR DECLARE ACount, BCount : INTEGER CONSTANT HYPHEN = '-' Password ← "" FOR ACount ← 1 TO 3 Group ← "" FOR BCount ← 1 TO 4 REPEAT NextChar ← RandomChar() UNTIL Exists(Group, NextChar) = FALSE Group ← Group & NextChar NEXT BCount Password ← Password & Group & HYPHEN NEXT ACount Password ← LEFT>Password, 14) // remove final hyphen RETURN Password ENDFUNCTION </pre> <p>Marks as follows to Max 7:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Declaration and initialisation of Password as STRING 2 Outer loop for three groups / until password is complete // three group loops 3 Attempt to use of both RandomChar() and Exists() in a loop 4 (Inner) loop for 4 characters in a group // note every 4 chars in a loop 5 Conditional loop until char is unique 6 Concatenating unique character to Group in a loop 7 Concatenate Group / random character to Password in a loop 8 (Attempt to) insert hyphens between groups (or removing later) and Return Password 	7



Question	Answer	Marks
9(b)	<pre> FUNCTION AddPassword(Name, Password : STRING) RETURNS BOOLEAN DECLARE Index : INTEGER DECLARE Added : BOOLEAN Added ← FALSE Index ← 1 IF FindPassword(Name) = "" THEN // Domain name not in // array WHILE Added = FALSE AND Index <= 500 IF Secret[Index, 1] = "" THEN Secret[Index, 1] ← Name Secret[Index, 2] ← Encrypt(Password) Added ← TRUE ELSE Index ← Index + 1 ENDIF ENDWHILE ENDIF RETURN Added ENDFUNCTION </pre> <p>Marks as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Check that the website domain name isn't already in array using <code>FindPassword()</code> / linear search, otherwise: 2 (Conditional) loop while not added and not end of array 3 Check for unused element by testing value in column 1 in a loop 4 If unused, write parameter values to column 1 and 2 and set flag / variable 5 ...having used <code>Encrypt()</code> on the password 6 Return <code>BOOLEAN</code> value (correctly in all cases) 	6
9(c)	<p>One mark per point to Max 3.</p> <p>Solution based on field length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert the length of the website domain name (either field) ... • ... to a string of fixed length • Form a string by concatenate this string with the other two (and write as one line of the file) <p>Solution based on use of separator character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a (separator) character that cannot occur in the domain name (e.g. space) • Create a string from the domain name followed by the separator • ...Concatenate the encrypted password (and write as one line of the file) 	3