Computing (958)

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

The number of candidates for this subject was 438. The percentage of candidates who obtained a full pass was 70.55%, with a decrease of 0.85% compared to the previous year.

The achievement of candidates for this subject according to grades is as follows:

Grade	A	A–	B+	B	B–	C+	C	C–	D+	D	F
Percentage	5.02	5.25	5.48	11.88	11.41	16.9	14.61	9.59	7.53	7.08	5.25

RESPONSES OF CANDIDATES

PAPER 958/1 (COMPUTING)

General Comment

Candidates were not able to draw the correct flowchart to show the sequences of events. Most of the candidates were weak to write the code segment in C. Candidates were expected to demonstrate programming skill in C. However, the candidates were able to provide correct answers on the social impacts of IT in daily life.

Question 1

This question required candidates to have knowledge on components used to disseminate information technology besides general knowledge of computer. Many candidates gave wrong answer. Candidates were expected to know the communications network, Internet services provider and software.

Question 2

Most candidates were able to answer correctly the advantages for installing software to track the Internet usage by the employee. However, some of the candidates wrongly assumed that the Internet monitoring software was similar as to the CCTV functions.

Question 3

Candidates were not able to write correct structure of declaration statements and did many syntax errors in C.

Question 4

Candidates were not able to convert the formula given in this question accurately due to many of the syntax errors.

In part (*b*), candidates gave the wrong answer for num as real numbers instead of integer.

Question 5

This question required candidates to draw the correct algorithm using flowchart to solve the multiplication of 5. Most of the candidates became confused between "adding by 5" with "multiply by 5". Candidates indicated that they lacked of sufficient knowledge and skill in problem solving using C.

Question 6

This question required candidates to understand the ethical or social impact of computer games. Most candidates were able to give the correct answers.

Question 7

This question required candidates to understand the use of local variables in C.

In part (*a*), candidates were not able to give the meaning of the local variable.

In part (*b*), candidates were not able to identify the local variables in the given statements.

In part (*c*), candidates failed to write the expected output from the given program.

Question 8

In part (*a*), most candidates were able to explain the correct meaning of bandwidth.

However, in part (*b*), candidates were not able to give the types of modems with different bandwidth.

In part (*c*), most candidates were able to calculate the correct time taken to transfer files.

Question 9

Many candidates were able to answer the four operations of a machine cycle with the correct drawing in (*a*) and explanation in (*b*). However, some candidates became confused with the input-process-output activities.

Question 10

This question required candidates to write a code segment in C to calculate the depreciation and current value.

In part (*a*) and part (*b*), most candidates were not able to write correct structure of declaration statements for define and variables.

In addition, in part (*c*), most candidates were also not able to provide a code segment to read and print the given variables.

In part (*d*), most candidates failed to provide correct answer for looping statements.

In part (*e*), candidates failed to provide the expected output from the given values.

PAPER 958/2 (COMPUTING)

General comments

Candidates had an average knowledge and mastery of systems analysis and design. Besides that, they showed little capability to apply the related concepts and theories in multimedia and information systems development. Surprisingly, most candidates were able to understand the database systems.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

This question required candidates to list issues of copyright concerning the use of multimedia. Most candidates' answers were considered the same idea as piracy. Candidates were expected to provide other issues such as copyright which is the need for access and propagation rights, particularly for fair-use and educational-use right as well as the right to know. This is important to track the use of the source of a media asset as the economic model to pay content owners and creators.

Question 2

This question was well answered by the candidates. Hypertext means a link to the information and hypermedia means a distributed collaborative information system to link many types of documents in the internet.

Question 3

Many candidates answered this question in general. They were expected to distinguish the roles of the personnel in information systems accurately.

Question 4

This question required candidates to have knowledge about input devices that can be used for the production and delivery of multimedia. Many candidates able to answer this question correctly.

Question 5

This question required candidates to have knowledge in database design.

In part (*b*), most candidates were able to answer this question by explaining the full functional dependence of an attribute.

In part (*c*), most candidates were able to explain about partially functional dependent problems.

In part (*d*), some candidates failed to state the purpose of a good database design and unable to provide the logical reasons of the problems that may arise when an attribute is partially dependent.

Question 6

This question expected the candidates to understand the fundamental principles to design multimedia homepage for Web or CD application. Many candidates were able to answer this question correctly using the CASPER concept. The CASPER concept consists of balance and proportion, unity and variety, simplicity and economy, contrast, functionality, typography etc. In addition, interactivity, user friendliness, clarity, repetition, and proximity are also accepted answers.

Question 7

This question required candidates to understand the basics knowledge of DDL, DML, and DD in database management systems. Many candidates could answer this question correctly.

Question 8

This question requires candidates' understanding in conversion strategies during the implementation phase.

In part (*a*), most candidates were not able to answer this question. They explained about the planning, analysis, design, implementation and maintenance phase instead. However, the candidates should have also explained about parallel conversion, phased conversion, cut over conversion, and pilot conversion.

In part (*b*), candidates were expected to give the opinion on how to train end users to use the system.

Question 9

This question required candidates to understand and to show skill using SQL expressions based on the given relational schemes. Many candidates were able to answer the question correctly but had syntax errors in their SQL expressions.

Question 10

This question required candidates to show the ability to draw an entity-relationship (E–R) diagram of the given a database scenario. Candidates were expected to identify the respective entities, primary keys and cardinalities of the database. Many candidates were able to answer this question well. However, some candidates unexpectedly drew the binary relationship entities separately from the complete E-R diagram.