



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level
In Information Technology (WIT12) Paper 01
Unit 2

INTRODUCTION

This report is split into two sections: General Comments and Specific Comments. In the Specific Comments, there will be comments about the candidates' responses to the written and coding questions.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Many candidates attempted all questions and the three hours allowed for the examination did not seem to be an issue for most candidates. However, there are still a number of candidates (sometimes entire centres) who do not attempt any of the JavaScript questions leading to the thought that this aspect of teaching/learning may have been missed or not had enough time spent on it.

The format of the question paper is a combination of written questions and practical coding tasks. It is intended that the structure of the paper is such that demand increases through each question and through the paper as a whole. The approximate split, in terms of marks, is approximately 29% written responses and 71% coding responses. There will normally be 6 questions with 2 being extended coding exercises intended to allow candidates to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding of HTML, CSS and JavaScript, whilst one requires an extended written response.

Candidates are required to complete the coding exercises using a simple text editor only e.g., Microsoft Notepad they should not be using WISYWIG software nor software that completes code for them or helps to find errors. For example, but not limited to, DreamWeaver, FrontPage etc.

It is still surprising to see the number of candidates who use/end up with absolute references to images/resources on their desktops and the number of candidates who only submit their answer files. In both cases the full range of marks cannot be accessed as resources that were part of the solution are missing. Candidates should ensure they save their finished responses in the same folder as the original question file(s) and that all of the files are submitted in one zipped folder maintaining the original folder structure.

Due to the format of the question paper, the mark scheme is arranged so that the questions with written responses are grouped at the start of the scheme, followed by the questions with coding responses. Examples of coding that meet the requirements of the extended coding questions were grouped at the end of the mark scheme. The Principal Examiner report also follows this format.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Written response questions

Question 1

- Q01ai This question was not well answered with many candidates repeating what was in the question. More than the words 'document type' needed to be included i.e. some understanding that it is needed for interpretation or specifies the version of HTML used to build the web page etc.
- Q01aii More candidates achieved this mark with the most common response being the value was not a key on the keyboard.
- Q01b This question was very well answered with the majority of candidates achieving both marks. The most common responses were a block level element starts on a new line and takes up the full width available.
- Q01d This question was quite well answered but a number of candidates repeated what was in the question. More than tests functions/user tests was needed for the marks. However, many candidates clearly knew the difference and answered the question very well.

Question 2

- Q02a This question was quite well answered. The majority of candidates who achieved marks achieved both of them.
- Q02b This question was very well answered with the majority of candidates being able to gain the 'hover' mark and many the mark for the change in opacity/transparency.
- Q02b This was quite well answered in that many candidates achieved at least one mark. The most common answer focussed on either the user being able to see the content, or the fonts being standardised across browsers. It was sad to see that fewer could put both points forward as an answer.

Question 3

- Q03ai This was the second time regular expressions have appeared as part of the theory questions and it was really nice to see how well the candidates had been prepared for this topic. The majority of the candidates achieved the mark for this question.
- Q03aii Again, a really well answered question with the majority of candidates achieving the mark for this question.
- Q03aiii This mark for this question was achieved by many candidates though a number used [A-D] as opposed to using the full range of uppercase characters.
- Q03e A good number of candidates achieved both marks, where only one mark was achieved it tended to be the keyup event that the candidates were unsure of.

Question 6

Overall, this question was not very well answered. There were some excellent responses seen with the full range of marks awarded. However, a number of candidates did not assess the effectiveness of the use of design principles in the mock-up. Some took it as an opportunity to evaluate the mock-up in terms of how much use it was to them when creating the web page, others evaluated the layout and colours etc. but not in terms of the use of design principles whilst others took it as an opportunity to evaluate the wireframe.

Coding response questions

Question 1

- Q01c This was a very well answered question with the majority of candidates achieving both marks.

Question 2

- Q02c This was also a well answered question. Setting the gradient colours was the most common mark achieved. Many also achieved the mark for centring horizontally. The mark for the transition into a rectangle appeared to be the hardest mark to achieve.
- Q02d This was very well answered question and it was nice to see the number of candidates who achieved all four marks. If marks were not achieved, it tended to be the rotation of the scissors and/or the dashed border marks.

Question 3

- Q03c It was disappointing to see how many candidates did not attempt this question. However, where it had been attempted, it was usually well answered with the majority of candidates achieving all three of the marks.

Question 4

Achievement for this question was generally very good. There was a very good range of marks seen including a good number of full marks. However, there are still weaknesses in terms of images/hyperlinks i.e., some candidates including absolute references to images/resources on their desktops and/or not ensuring their answer was saved in the same folder as the question.

In terms of the individual marking points most candidates:

- used an external stylesheet and at least one HTML5 semantic element (though some are still using divs and naming them "footer", etc)
- set the colour and/or font size appropriately for at least one of the specified elements
- set the alignment appropriately for at least one of the specified elements
- added the hyperlink to the web page times.html
- set the width of the images

Fewer candidates managed:

- the bookmark to the times paragraph on the web page times.html
- the rollover
- the email link

Question 5

As with question 3c it was disappointing to see the number of candidates (entire centres at times) who did not attempt this question. Where it had been attempted there were a good number of candidates who had clearly been well prepared. The code always contains aspects that the candidates can take and amend slightly for some of the marks targeted at E grade with more open-ended marks towards the A grade. There should be marks achievable by all candidates in this question.