Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL)
In Information and Communication Technology

WIT07: Using Spreadsheet Software
Paper 01

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General comments

Much of the work seen was appropriate and gave the students good opportunities to meet the requirements of the specification. Work was seen that covered the full range of marks available.

The aim is to produce a portfolio of work that reflects their ability to create a spreadsheet to meet an agreed purpose, together with user and technical documentation to support this.

Many students produced an index page which helped navigation though this was not needed. Others simply presented each strand as a single or series of PDFs.

Most assessors made appropriate comments on the e-record sheets which were helpful and showed how the marks were awarded.

Many students combined this unit with Unit 5. On occasions this did not work well as the evidence was occasionally confusing.

Strand A
Functional specification:

Overall this strand was well addressed and assessed.

Most fully described the problem to be solved and how they would go about it. The majority of candidates were in Mark Bands 2 and 3.

There are 4 marks available on this strand and most students collected at least 3.

Strand B
Design:

This strand is about the design of the finished spreadsheet. Prototypes are needed and this progress needs to be evidenced. For higher Mark Bands there needs to be evidence of feedback, and actions from that feedback.

This strand was often linked with Unit WIT05 to generate the feedback. Where this was done well it ensured the higher Mark Bands were accessed. Too often, however, the focus was on feeding back to satisfy the requirements of Unit WIT05.

When addressed properly this strand was well accessed and well-assessed.   Too often though marks were awarded for work that sat better with WIT05 and was not always relevant to this strand.

There are 16 marks available on this strand and most students collected marks in Mark Band 2.

Strand C
Complex working spreadsheet:

This strand requires a fully functional spreadsheet, together with technical documentation showing how and why it works.

Evidence for this strand was variable. Some was very good and assessed accurately. However, some spreadsheets did not work and had been assessed too generously: others were not complex enough for marks above MB1.

There was evidence of very similar spreadsheet design and use of formulae/ functions within centres.   This lack of independence meant the spreadsheets often lacked he complexity needed to access higher marks.

Overall this strand was inconsistently addressed and assessed.   Problem areas were generally in Mark Band 2.

The documentation was also excellent or virtually non-existent. It was in this strand that some learners got confused with what was presented for WIT05 and what was needed for WIT07. At times marks were awarded by assessors in Mark Band 2 where no documentation existed at all. This prevented learners getting beyond Mark Band 1.

There are 18 marks available on this strand. Whilst some work was clearly Mark Band 3 other work was not enough to justify the marks awarded for Mark Band 2.

Strand D
Testing:

This strand requires formative and summative testing. It links with Strand B.

The evidence must be clear and not 'assumed' on the basis that the spreadsheet works.

As with Strand C the documentation was also excellent or non-existent.

Overall this strand was inconsistently addressed and assessed.   Marks were awarded when no testing existed at all. On too many occasions candidates did not fully understand that 'fail' tests as well as 'pass' tests are needed to ensure the robustness of the solution.

There are 8 marks available on this strand. The Mark Band 3 work was clearly and justifiably awarded the correct marks but the award of marks in the other Mark Bands was incorrect.

Evaluation:

This strand was not well addressed. Some learners did not attempt it at all whilst others did not fully understand what was needed.

The main problems surrounded:

- the effectiveness of the solution and any shortcomings
- current skills levels and enhancements.

There are 12 marks available on this strand. Most of the work provided was well assessed though and, overall, assessors did seem aware of the shortcomings of the candidates.   The descriptors are very clear for this strand and there 3 discrete elements to it and it was addressing these that the work fell short.

There seemed to be feeling that the learners had done the main body of work and the evaluation was an add-on. However, with 12 marks available it represents 20% of the final total and could, perhaps, be better addressed.

General Administration

The sample should be sent to the moderator on a single CD for each unit, the CD should contain all the students in the sample, the work of the highest and lowest scoring students should also be included as extras if not already in the sample selected.

All of the administration elements were fully in order for this series.