



Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE In  
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)  
(4IT1) Paper 1: Written Paper

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Some of the candidates were well prepared and demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the topics in the specification.

High scoring responses were seen for several of the questions that would have been familiar to candidates who had studied past papers during their revision. Topics that were well addressed included:

- Advantages of shopping online.
- Causes of unequal access to ICT.
- How the health and safety issues that arise from individuals' use of ICT can be minimised.
- Input peripherals.
- Why software is updated.
- Navigation aids.
- Risks to data and information.
- How to stay safe online.

Topics that were included in recent past papers but were not well addressed in this examination included:

- The differences between RAM and ROM and the impact on the user of the size of RAM/ROM.
- The characteristics of optical disk drives.
- Factors influencing the speed and volume of data transfer.
- Contactless payment systems.

Other topics that candidates found to be challenging included:

- The function of web browsers.
- Streaming services.

Performance covering the full mark range was noted including some excellent responses worthy of the highest grades.

One area for improvement would be in application of knowledge and explanations. For example, how improper disposal of digital devices could be harmful to human health, how key features of online communities could be used by a specified group, or the impact of transaction tracking on the information that individuals see online.

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