



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

0984/12

Paper 1 Computer Systems

October/November 2023

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 October/November 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **10** 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.

Mark scheme abbreviations

/ separates alternative words / phrases within a marking point

// separates alternative answers within a marking point

underline actual word given must be used by candidate (grammatical variants accepted)

max indicates the maximum number of marks that can be awarded

() the word / phrase in brackets is not required, but sets the context

Note: No marks are awarded for using brand names of software packages or hardware.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	– A	1
1(b)	Any one from: – Spyware // Keylogger – Adware – Trojan horse	1
1(c)	– Anti-malware	1

Question	Answer	Marks								
2(a)	– 227	1								
2(b)	One mark for each correct character in the correct order: – E3	2								
2(c)	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table>	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0			
2(d)	One mark for suitable working method e.g. flip and add 1 One mark for correct answer – 10011101	2								
2(e)	One mark for each correct nibble (max 2) One mark for correct working e.g. correct carry One mark for showing overflow bit $ \begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1 \\ +\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline 1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1 \end{array} $	4								

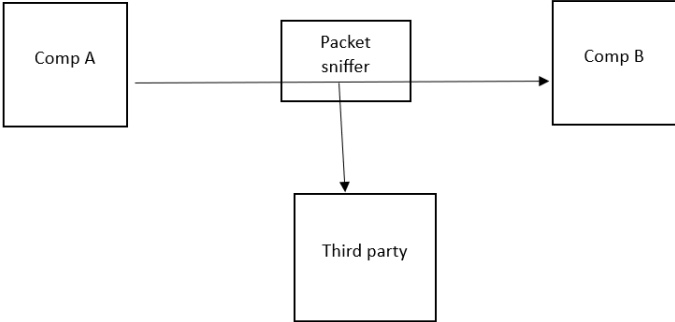
Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)(i)	– The maximum number of FDE cycles/instructions a CPU can perform/process/execute in a second	1
3(a)(ii)	– Increases/improves the performance // Tasks can be performed quicker/faster – ... because more FDE cycles/instructions can be processed in a second	2
3(b)	– Stores addresses ... – ... of next instruction/data to be fetched // where data is to be written to	2
3(c)	– Instruction set	1

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Any two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Performs a single/limited/dedicated function/task – It has a microprocessor – It has dedicated hardware – Uses firmware – It is normally built into a larger device/system – User normally cannot reprogram – It does not require much power – It is cheap to manufacture – Works automatically // works without human intervention – It is small (in size) – It is a real-time system 	2
4(b)	One mark for each correct system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – security light system – freezer – vending machine 	3

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	Any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The recording of the song is more accurate/closer to original 	1
5(b)	Any one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The file size will be increased – The file will require more storage space 	1
5(c)	Any two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The number of <u>bits</u> that are used per sample – ... that provides the variation in amplitude that can be stored for each sample // defines the number of different amplitudes that can be recorded – ... that determines how quiet/loud the sounds are that can be recorded – Example e.g. 16-bit 	2
5(d)	– Lossless	1

Question	Answer	Marks										
6	<p>One mark for each correct data transmission method:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Data transmission method</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>serial simplex</td> <td>Data is transmitted down a single wire, one bit at a time, in one direction only.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>parallel half-duplex</td> <td>Data is transmitted down multiple wires, multiple bits at a time, in both directions, but only one direction at a time.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>serial full-duplex</td> <td>Data is transmitted down a single wire, one bit at a time, in both directions at the same time.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>parallel simplex</td> <td>Data is transmitted down multiple wires, multiple bits at a time, in one direction only.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Data transmission method	Description	serial simplex	Data is transmitted down a single wire, one bit at a time, in one direction only.	parallel half-duplex	Data is transmitted down multiple wires, multiple bits at a time, in both directions, but only one direction at a time.	serial full-duplex	Data is transmitted down a single wire, one bit at a time, in both directions at the same time.	parallel simplex	Data is transmitted down multiple wires, multiple bits at a time, in one direction only.	4
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7(a)	<p>Any two from e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Barcode scanner – QR code scanner – Digital camera 	2
7(b)	<p>Any six from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proximity/infrared/pressure sensor used – Sensor continually sends digitised data to microprocessor // When driver pushes button, sensor sends digitised data to the microprocessor – Microprocessor compares data to stored value(s) – If in range/out of range/matches, microprocessor sends signal to close the door – Actuator used to close door – If not in range/out of range/does not match door will not close // – If not in range/out of range/does not match actuator not activated/signal not sent as passenger in door // – If not in range/out of range/does not match a timer is set to check again // – If not in range/out of range/does not match a signal is sent to alert the driver/output a message – This process repeats until the door can close 	6

Question	Answer	Marks
8(a)	<p>The diagram demonstrates (One mark for each part of the diagram):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data is being sent from one device to another – The data is being examined during transmission – Packet sniffer is used – Intercepted data is reported to a third-party during transmission ... – ... and analysed for anything useful – Connection hacked to spoof destination address <p>e.g.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Packet sniffer examines data as it is sent from one computer to another</p>  <pre> graph LR A[Comp A] --> S[Packet sniffer] S --> B[Comp B] S --> T[Third party] </pre> <p>Analyses data for anything useful</p> </div>	4
8(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encryption ... – ... if the data is intercepted it will be meaningless (because they do not have the decryption key) 	2

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9	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Term</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>world wide web</td> <td>the collective name for all the web pages available</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cookie</td> <td>a small text file, stored by the web browser, that can store a user's personal data</td> </tr> <tr> <td>uniform resource locator (URL)</td> <td>the text-based address for a website // It is made up of the protocol, domain name and filename/folder name</td> </tr> <tr> <td>web server</td> <td>Stores web pages // receives requests from clients and returns requested web page</td> </tr> <tr> <td>hypertext markup language // HTML</td> <td>the language used to create a website. Example tags are <head> and <body></td> </tr> <tr> <td>hypertext transfer protocol // HTTP</td> <td>a protocol that is used to request and send web pages</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Term	Description	world wide web	the collective name for all the web pages available	cookie	a small text file, stored by the web browser, that can store a user's personal data	uniform resource locator (URL)	the text-based address for a website // It is made up of the protocol, domain name and filename/folder name	web server	Stores web pages // receives requests from clients and returns requested web page	hypertext markup language // HTML	the language used to create a website. Example tags are <head> and <body>	hypertext transfer protocol // HTTP	a protocol that is used to request and send web pages	6
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10(a)	<p>Any one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ability to learn/adapt // machine learning abilities – The collection of data and the rules for using that data – The ability to reason // has problem solving abilities // makes predictions – Simulates intelligent/human behaviour – Analyses patterns 	1
10(b)	<p>Any six from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It has an interface ... – ... used to input data/view output – It has a knowledge base – It has a rule base – It has an inference engine – Applies the rule base to/and the knowledge base to provide output/diagnosis/result/solution/decision – Decides what to ask next based on the data input 	6

Question	Answer	Marks
11(a)	– Amount of liquid/gas/steam flowing/moving through an environment	1
11(b)	<p>Two from (for benefit and matching description) e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increases safety – ...meaning that workers do not need to go into dangerous areas to collect data/make checks/do dangerous tasks – Can increase jobs/skills – ...as employees are needed to learn/maintain the equipment – No need to do repetitive tasks – ... so, they can use their time on other/more skilled tasks 	2
11(c)	<p>Two from (for drawback and matching description) e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High set-up/installation costs – ... it would mean the company need to find a lot of money up front to pay for the equipment // employees will need training – Utility/maintenance/repair costs – ... increase in bills such as electricity // skilled employees will be required to maintain the system // equipment will break/need updating – Deskillling of the workforce – ... may mean that workers will no longer have the skills for some of the manufacturing jobs, should the equipment break 	2

Question	Answer	Marks
12(a)	<p>Any two from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>Only</u> exists electronically – Can be a decentralised system – Can be a centralised system – Usually encrypted 	2
12(b)	– Blockchain	1

Question	Answer	Marks
13(a)(i)	– C	1
13(a)(ii)	Any one from: – Directly accessed by the CPU – Has both volatile and non-volatile storage	1
13(b)	One mark for each correct term in the correct order: – Random access memory (RAM) – Hard disk drive (HDD) – Pages – Random access memory (RAM) – Virtual memory // Hard disk drive (HDD)	5