



# **EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI**

Eswatini Prevocational Certificate of Secondary Education

## **Information Communication Technology (5924) Examination Report for 2023**

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**EPCSE ICT****Paper 5924/02****Theory Paper****PAPER 2A THEORY PART****Written paper****Key messages**

- A wide variety of questions were offered to the candidates covering many aspects of ICT theory from simple hardware identification to the more challenging applications of ICT such as systems analyses and computer networks. There were questions related to some of the practical tasks in other papers such as questions on website authoring.

**General comments**

- Most candidates were able to attempt most of the questions and produced a large range of marks.
- The paper allowed all candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of ICT using a wide variety of topics. The vast majority of candidates were able to complete the paper in the allocated time, and most were able to attempt all of the questions.
- When a question indicates a specific number of answers, candidates should only write one answer in each allocated space. Candidates writing extra answers will achieve no credit for these.
- Candidates are advised to write their answers in full. For instance, when a question requires them to explain or define, they should give their answers in full as each question requires detailed points relevant to the questions.

**Comments on Specific Questions****Question 1**

The question was fairly well answered by most of the candidates. Most candidates were able to score at least three marks, most of the marks were lost in part **(b)**. Candidates were supposed to copy the item as is from the list. Marks were not awarded for wrong spellings.

Most candidates got parts **(a)**, **(c)** and **(d)** correct. The most common incorrect answer for **(b)** was “A graphics tablet”.

**Question 2**

This was a very well-answered question with many of the candidates achieving full marks.

**Question 3**

This question was fairly well answered by many of the candidates.

- (a) Most candidates were able to achieve full marks on this part of the question.
- (b) The majority of candidates were able to give the correct name of the methods of implementation but their description was not satisfactory, thus a majority of the candidates were able to achieve more than 3 marks.
- (c) Candidates who attempted this part of the question were able to name the three items in the technical documentation. Some candidates named items that were in the user documentation.
- (d) This part of the question was poorly answered by the candidates. A majority of the candidates mentioned items that are also found in the technical documentation.

#### **Question 4**

This question was fairly well answered by the candidates.

- (a) A majority of the candidates were able to get the one mark.
- (b) Candidates who knew what an access point is were able to get full marks. A majority of candidates guessed the wrong answers as they were answering about getting access to the internet.
- (c) Most candidates did not attempt this question.

#### **Question 5**

Candidates performed poorly in this question.

- (a) Candidates were merely stating the age appearing on the input form. The most common answer is 20
- (b) Candidates made the same mistake as in (a) by simply stating what is selected on Gender.
- (c) Very few candidates were able to get a mark on this part of the question. Most candidates were simply confirming the statement as given on the question stem.

#### **Question 6**

This was the worst-answered question in this paper. Candidates were only describing encryption as being used to secure data. This was part of the question stem. Candidates did not explain how the encryption key works.

#### **Question 7**

Most candidates failed to get the mark. Candidates were giving the explanation of the tags rather than giving the general name of tags. Common answers were "heading 1" and "bold".

#### **Question 8**

This question was fairly well answered by the candidates.

**Question 9**

A majority of the candidates did not get the mark because they were trying to explain the meaning of the tag rather than explaining why the line would not automatically adjust the width.

**Question 10**

Most candidates were able to get one mark from this question. Candidates were able to explain what cell spacing is but failed to describe cell padding.

**EPCSE ICT****Paper 5924/02  
Practical Test Part B****PAPER 2 B****Key messages**

For this examination, the main issues to note are as follows:

**Spreadsheet Task 1**

- Candidates need to take greater care with the accuracy of data entry, formatting of cells and font used.
- Candidates need to be able to use a variety of functions.
- Candidates need to be able to identify which is the most appropriate function for a task.
- Candidates need to ensure that appropriate formatting is used for all cells including conditional formatting.
- Candidates need to take greater care with the formatting of the spreadsheet, particularly the setting of row heights and column widths to match both the question and the data or labels contained within the cells.

**Database\_Task 2**

- Candidates need a better understanding of working with databases, designing of tables and modifying them, where the use of validation techniques is concerned.
- Candidates need a better understanding of creating of queries and modifying them in the sense of adding new field that calculate at run time along with validation and verification techniques.
- Candidates need to understand on report creating to populate the desired outcome.

**Printing**

- Candidates must ensure that they include their candidate details in the correct place on all printouts.
- Candidates must be able to display row and column heading if requested.
- To only print desired outcome.

**General comments**

Candidate errors were spread evenly over the sections of the paper. There were significant differences in the range of results from centre to centre and from candidate to candidate within centres..

**Comments on specific questions****Spreadsheet \_ Task 1****Question 1**

Most of them attempted this question, however a few managed to wrap text.

**Question 2**

Most candidates managed to carry out this question using the formula not the function. Answer turned out to be the same.

**Question 3**

This question was mostly attempted by candidates. However, they failed to fully display when printing the spreadsheet. Which resulted in the reduction of marks since function did not fully display.

**Question 4**

This question was attempted by most candidates.

**Question 5**

This question proved to be challenging for most candidates.

**Question 6**

This question was rarely completed well hence the evidence and printout did not display the required output.

**Question 7**

Question was attempted by most candidates.

**Question 8**

Most candidates completed this as specified.

**Question 9**

Most candidates did forget to calculate on this question.

**Question 10**

Most candidates attempt question. However, they failed to display it on their printouts that is the expanding of rows and columns.

**Question 11**

Most candidates managed to do printout activities with part of the content displaying.

**Question 12**

Most candidates reprinted same layouts from previous task.

**Database\_Task 2****Question 13**

A majority of candidates completed this as specified, but a few did not set the primary key requested.

**Question 14**

This question proved to be difficult to some of the candidates as they failed to set the validation text and date.

**Question 15**

This question was attempted by a small group of candidates. This question proved to be difficult.

**Question 16**

Most candidates managed to create a form. However, they could not insert the combo box with its option

**Question 17**

This question was mostly done by candidates.

**Question 18**

This question proved to be difficult for some candidates as they could not use <>symbol to select specific data and apply all details on criteria area.

**Question 19**

This question was attempted by most candidates.

**Note:** On the printouts of database activities, candidates managed to print through query option instead of Report option. Invigilators or Technicians in the exam room are advised against the printing without candidate name and writing of candidates details using a pen.



## EPCSE ICT

**Paper 5924/03****School Based Assessment (Project)****Key messages**

The requirements for doing well in this school-based project paper were the ability to:

- read the situation given thoroughly before thinking of the structure of the project.
- use appropriate software for the project.
- meet **ALL** the conditions stated in the situation.
- produce legible screenshots to capture the required evidence.
- produce a project write-up that has all the details of work from start to final product

**General comments**

- Candidates appeared averagely prepared for this paper. Most candidates completed or attempted all elements of the paper. They appeared to have the basic skills in web authoring and they showed a good level of skill.
- Candidates are expected to start doing their projects the moment they receive the question papers so they can have ample time to do the work and make sure all work is available for printout and submission.
- The examination paper required candidates to show their creativity in the design of the website. Some candidates used pre-designed templates and thus the originality of the work was compromised.
- Centres must make sure all candidates' work is submitted; both the soft copy and hard copy. Some candidates' final solutions were not available yet the candidates have a hard copy portfolio of the project.
- Centres must make sure each candidate's work is put in a folder and that it is correctly labeled. All folders must be saved in one CD, and a backup of work stored for cases when it can be needed.
- Candidates must produce screenshots of all steps they take to finish the project. Screenshot evidence is often too small and/or faint to be read even using magnification devices. Candidates must ensure that all screenshots can be easily read with the naked eye. Care should be taken when cropping and resizing screenshots to ensure important elements are still shown.

**Comments on specific stages****STAGE 1 – PROPOSAL****Introduction**

Candidates did well in this section. Most candidates understood the project specifications and were able to describe the background and purpose of their project. Expected background information had to include:

- The type of business
- Services rendered
- Where and when the business was established
- Ownership of the business

The purpose of the project was to create a website to advertise their business.

**Problem statement**

Candidates did fairly well in this section. This section needs candidates to clearly understand the **situation** as given in the question paper and then identify ICT solutions (software) that can be used to solve the problem.

**Justification**

Most candidates were not able to give five or more reasons for their choice of software stated in the problem statement. This section requires candidates to state and justify their choice of ICT solution, and the software to be used. Some candidates researched the software to be used but gave irrelevant and general justifications for their choice. Their reasons do not justify their choices

**Methodology**

Most candidates did not do well in this section. Candidates are expected to clearly state and explain at least 4 stages of their system development.

These stages are:

- Development stage
- Testing stage
- Documentation stage
- Evaluation stage

They were expected to give an explanation of each stage in relevance to their project.

**Time-frame, References**

A majority of candidates did well in these sections. Some candidates stated time frames for the stages of the proposals yet the requirement was to give time frames for each stage to be developed in their project

## STAGE 2 – DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF ICT SOLUTION

### Design

- Most candidates did not produce evidence, such as screenshots, to show the different designs required at this stage. Candidates were expected to describe how they would design the website. The description had to be supported with evidence, which is the screenshots. A brief description of the screenshot will guarantee full marks.

Candidates were expected to:

- Create at least five web pages that have consistent themes and layouts.
  - They should have all the requirements that make up a good website
- Candidates were not expected to show the webpage source code, but only the design of the stylesheets.
  - Most candidates showed good creativity in producing a company logo and thus got full marks.
  - A majority of candidates did not make use of house styles and themes when designing websites.
  - A vast number of candidates were designed hyperlinks to web pages, and some even had hyperlinks to websites. Very few candidates created a link from the other pages back to the home page. A hyperlink to the same page (anchor) was created by very few candidates.
  - Most candidates were able to list hardware and software requirements for their project. Some responses were giving hardware and software that were never used anywhere in the project.

### Testing

Very few candidates were able to show their test plans. Candidates were generally explaining what a test plan was, and why they needed a test plan, without relating their test plan to their project.

Fully marks were awarded when candidates vividly explained how they were going to test the functionality of their project by stating the following:

- Test plan – what to be tested, stating at least 3 elements in their website that need to be tested

For example:

What is to be tested	Expected outcome
hyperlink on homepage	A new page will open

- Module testing – show screenshot evidence that you did test each page and then show results. Candidates are expected to then suggest improvements that can be done after testing.
- Final testing – show evidence of testing the functionality of the whole project.

**Implementation**

Most candidates got high marks in developing the system. However, a majority did not show creativity and enhancement in their projects to get full marks.

Some candidates had the functionality of their website compromised because they did not submit all the files and some were not placed in the candidate folder.

Candidates should not use pre-designed templates for creating projects as this limits their creativity.

**Documentation**

Most candidates were able to did not do well in producing the user documentation. To gain full marks, candidates were supposed to show screenshots of how the website works, not just generalizing.

Most candidates failed to state frequently asked questions about the system, but rather they were giving questions about the business.

**STAGE 3 - EVALUATION**

Most candidates got low marks for the evaluation of their system. They needed to state whether their system could do all that they intended it to do or not. They then had to identify issues they faced when creating the system and how they overcame them, which most of them could not do.

A majority of candidates could not identify the limitations of their system. They were merely stating their limitations as developers not for the system.