EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

Eswatini Prevocational Certificate of Secondary Education

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (5924)

Examination Report for 2024

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PAPER 2_A

5924 /2A   **THEORY TEST PART A**

General Comments

The total number of candidates who sat for this paper was about 328. This Paper is out of 40 marks in total.

The paper was poorly done by most of the candidates. There has been an increase in the number of candidates using brand names to answer the questions. It was clearly stated on the front page of the examination paper 'No marks will be awarded for using brand names of software packages or hardware systems.

As the scenarios of the paper change it is important that candidates read the question carefully before answering it, as marks are awarded for answering the question that has been set. Candidates that read the question thoroughly were able to give more detailed answers. Candidates who performed well in this paper used specific and detailed language when answering 'describe' and 'discuss' type questions.

This component impacted on the overall performance mark for the entire examination (both theory and practical).

The marks ranged between zero and twenty-eight. Most candidates scored in the range 0 - 10, none got above 30, a very few got between 11 - 20.

Questions that were more challenging to most candidates were Questions **15, 14, 12(a) and (b), 3, 7** and **8**.

Question 15 proved to be the most challenging because no candidate managed to get full marks. Questions that were more accessible to most candidates were **1, 2, 4(a)** and **10(a).**

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

(a) Most candidates were not able to gain two marks for this question. They failed to describe a device driver. A few candidates mixed it up as an example of a storage device

(b) Most candidates were able to gain at least a mark in this question.

Question 2

Many candidates had an idea of what a RAM is. However, they failed to give reasons as to why RAM is installed on a computer. Candidates should be encouraged to give more detail in their answers. Some candidates did not give sufficient detail to gain full marks**.**

Question 3

    (a) This question required candidates to identify any network device. Majority of the candidates managed to answer this question as requested. That is listing a device used to connect multiple computers in a network.

    (b) This question proved to be difficult. Majority failed to give an example of a component that allows a computer to connect to a LAN.

    (c) Answers to this question were generalized, hence marks were not obtained by most candidates.

Question 4

A few candidates managed to recall the benefits to keep an operating system updated. Candidates are advised to read and clearly understand a question before answering.

Question 5

Some candidates misread this question by answering directly to give methods of preventing viruses.

Question 6

    (a) Many candidates understood what phishing tries to achieve than explaining ind detail what it is. That way a fewer marks were obtained in this section

    (b) Many candidates failed this question. Most of them did not understand the question requirement.

Question 7

This question required and understanding of online banking drawbacks and benefits. Candidates understood the question. However, they failed to answer based on the fact that they generalized these answers instead of discussing or giving reference to internet banking.

Question 8

    (a) Many candidates were fully successful on this part. The main issue was the use of brand names rather than generic names and some giving output devices instead of input devices.

    (b) On the drawbacks and benefits, candidates generalised their answers failing to give specific answers as requested.

    The question was attempted by all candidates but proved to be difficult to most of them because of terms used.

Question 9

Most candidates managed to explain the purpose of this function . =COUNTIF(A4:A7, "A")

Question 10

The html code showing a comment. Most candidates failed to do his question .

Question 11

Most candidates failed to answer his question .This question required candidates to describe the meaning of alternate text on the image syntax.

Question 12

(a) Candidates were to identify the (*like Smi) symbol. Majority failed to identify it as it used on the database
(b) Candidates were to explain the use of the wildcard based on the example given. Majority failed to answer the question.

Question 13

A few candidates did not attempt this question. This question required candidates to know the benefits of a mail merge feature. Yet most candidates answered on just emails.

Question 14

This question was the easiest by far. How to form an example was illustrated on the question, candidates were not able to form nor design examples as guided and giving types of validation. However, most candidates failed to answer the question as requested.

Question 15

This question proved to be challenging for most candidates. A majority referred to it as the recycle bin while the question expected candidates to understand what a system restore system is and its use.

PAPER 2_B

5924 /2B   **PRACTICAL TEST PART B**

General Comments

The total number of candidates who sat for this paper was about 328.

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. A significant number of candidates, either manually or through the WYSIWYG software that they were using, overrode this instruction by setting the table . Whilst the structure of the table was frequently correct, table cell dimensions were not always as specified in the question paper. Some candidates appeared to ignore the information that cell widths allowed for border spacing, table background and removed this spacing with embedded CSS in the html by collapsing the borders separated within the stylesheet.

However, this year's performance on this practical exam improved compared to last year. The marks ranged between zero and fifty-two. Candidates were to pass this exam regardless of the functions questions which proved to be challenging for most candidates.

Questions that were more challenging to most candidates were Questions **4, 12, 14, 16** and **19**.

Key messages

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

Website Authoring

- Candidates need a better understanding of html syntax, particularly in the use of head and body tags.
- Candidates need a better understanding of working with websites, designing of tables and modifying them
- Candidates need a better understanding of the applying CSS as an inline style attribute of the html style tag
- Candidates were not able to create the html code and style sheet as requested, (the list as requested, hyperlinks, setting of table size and cell padding,
- Candidates were not able to insert and format the image on the html.

Spreadsheet

- Candidates need to take greater care with the accuracy of data entry and formatting of cells
- Candidates were not able to use mostly the IF(AND), IF(OR) and IF(COUNTIF) 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.

Charts and Graphs

- Candidates were not able to apply point explosion on parts of the graph requested
- Candidates were not able to apply gradient colour
- To only print the chart on a new sheet with candidates' details on the printout

Printing

- Candidates could not print the html code page which greatly impacted on the browser printout
- Candidates must ensure that they include their candidate details in the correct place on all printouts.
- Candidates were not able to display row and column heading if requested
- To only print desired outcome (some printout, content was not visible due to custom set)

Comments on specific questions

Website Authoring Task

Question 1

This question was well answered by most candidates who created the web page structure as shown and applied the <title> Popular Social Networks</title>

Question 2

Most candidates placed this text in the correct cell, but fewer managed to set <h1>,/h1> , Centre formatting <centre> and format font colour to red using tags or tags.

Question 3

This was completed with mixed results. Most candidates placed the list without the instructed <ol type = I>. Fewer candidates placed the list as specified so that it would function and display on browsers.

Question 4

Few candidates placed inline style attributes into the html to fit the images to the width of the table cell. Of those who achieved the correct end result, the majority of solutions used html tags for width = '500px', cellspacing =5 and ,<tr bgcolor= "Yellow"> as required by the question. The retention of the aspect ratio proved

Question 5

Most candidates added the image, and setting the width and the height to 30px. Several candidates did not adjust or resize image as requested. This was shown as evidence on the html code page.

Question 6

This question proved more challenging to candidates, with many skipping this question.

Question 7

Many candidates successfully formatted the text from setting this text to style <h2><i> Further Reading </i></h2>. There were some candidates who had only added part of the given text

Question 8

This question proved more challenging to candidates, with many creating a hyperlink from the correct text to a web page rather than to open a specific website. Whilst most candidates got the web address correct, far fewer included the created from the text click here with the correct syntax and 100% accuracy.

Question 9

Most candidates set the closing tags and nested correctly as request. This applied for candidates who managed to print the html page.

Question 10

Most candidates included the HTML and browser view of the page. There were still some submissions in an editor rather than a browser and a small number printed from document production and edited from there. Some screen prints were only for web browser and some printed only the html code.

Marks were mostly obtained when printing the html page on this task.

<u>Spreadsheet Task</u>

Question 11

This question required candidates to format the spreadsheet; **to merge; to align text, to set background colour; to set font colour**

Many candidates merged rows 1 and 2.

Most candidates did not attempt question. Function proved to be difficult. The horizontal alignment and vertical alignment proved to be an impossible task.

Many candidates applied the green background colour

A fewer group di manage to set the font colour to white.

Question 12

A majority of candidates did not attempt this question. On the printouts it showed that the task proved to be difficult hence there was no evidence.

Question 13

A majority of candidates completed this as specified, that is setting the date format, but a few did set the date to be dd-mm-yyy.

Question 14

A majority of candidates did not attempt this question, Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function. The use of =IF(AND), identifying the first criteria and the second criteria separately, and the outcome as specified.

Question 15

The use of conditional formatting. Half of the candidates managed this task. A few managed but failed to set the thin horizontal crosshatch pattern. While the very few could not attempt question at all.

Question 16

A majority of candidates did not attempt this question, Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function. The use of =IF(COUNTIF) or =(IF(OR), identifying the range, criteria, and the output as specified.

Question 17

Majority of candidates did complete this task, this question was the easiest. The use of formula was well applied.

Question 18

A majority of candidates did not attempt this question, Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function. The use of =SUMIF, range, appropriate criteria, and the sum range.

Question 19

Majority of candidates did not complete the creation of the PIE chart as requested.

Few candidates managed to score all eight marks awarded to the chart.

Majority failed to apply point explosion on ZPN and 30%. While others failed to apply the gradient colour on the pie chart.

A number printed this question with the candidate details on the printout.

Overall mark of 4 from all candidates. Marks obtained, were for the chart tittle which was to be centre positioned, legend moved to appear below the chart, the callouts data labels were candidates were given a mark on displaying data as percentage, and candidates being able to produce a chart.

Question 20

A majority of candidates completed this question as specified, but a failed to display orientation, row and column heading as requested. This question required candidates to print 2 (two) printouts, one showing formuales used and the other displaying values

Some candidates who printed did not widen the columns to show all the formulae and others did not include the row and column headings, some printouts were without candidate details.