

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The questions set were of standard and within the scope of the syllabus. This was the first Information and Communication Technology (ICT) examination taken by Junior High School students in Ghana. The standard of the paper and candidates, performance could therefore not be compared to any previous one. The general performance of the candidates was average. A few performed excellently, especially candidates from schools that had computers and had both practical and theory lessons under good I.C.T. teachers. Candidates from such schools demonstrated mastery of I.C.T.

Some schools, however, did not perform satisfactorily probably because they did not have access to computers for I.C.T. lessons. Indications are that candidates would perform better when exposed to computers and good tuition in computer studies.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) The performance of candidates was appreciably average as it was the first I.C.T. examination at the junior school level.
- (2) Questions on the identification of Word Pad application program, steps involved in switching on a personal computer system, identification of some I.C.T tools, classification of hardware into input and output devices which are basic to understanding I.C.T. were satisfactorily answered by majority of the candidates.
- (3) Candidates who performed creditably well gave concise answers to questions. This types of answers to questions should be encouraged.
- (4) Candidates also used the correct I.C.T. terms in their responses and exhibited adequate understanding of I.C.T.

3. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- (1) Some candidates appeared to have been inadequately prepared for the I.C.T. examination, as they showed lacked of knowledge in I.C.T.
- (2) Questions on spreadsheet were not satisfactorily answered by most candidates as performance in that aspect of the paper was marginal.
- (3) Some candidates did not understand the questions due to poor command of English Language. Such candidates could not write correct answers; they even copied incorrectly words that were on the question paper.
- (1) It was apparent in some instances that some schools did not have access to computers for their lessons. Candidates from such schools were at disadvantage and this showed in their work.

4. **SUGGESTED REMEDIES**

- (1) Schools must acquire computers for their students since I.C.T. is a practical course. Candidates cannot get adequate knowledge in I.C.T. and perform well in examinations without access to computers.
- (2) Teachers in schools must lay emphasis equally on both theoretical and practical aspects of I.C.T.
- (3) Equal attention must be given to all topics in the I.C.T. syllabus.
- (4) Candidates must also improve their standard in the writing of the English Language. Some candidates could not comprehend the questions and were also not able to express themselves in the English Language.

5. **DETAILED COMMENTS**

Question 1

This was a compulsory question for all candidates. This question required candidates to study the computer monitor interface and answer questions on Word Pad program on the monitor screen.

Most candidates could identify correctly the program as Word Pad and file name as WAEC EXAMINATION. Few of them had difficulty in identifying the parts labeled A,B,C,D, E and F. Some had problem in stating the functions of B and C whose expected responses are as follows:

- A - is the formatting bar that helps the user to change the appearance of a text or documents.
- B - is the title bar that displays the name of the application/ logo and the file.
- C - relocates window.
- D - maximizes, minimizes, restores or closes window.

The I.C.T. tools Earphone and Pen drive were correctly identified by many candidates, but a few identified **Digital watch** as **Disco watch** or **Wrist watch** which are wrong.

Question 2

This question was popular and most candidates gave correct answers. They could explain what input and output devices are. The classification of the listed items into input and

output devices was correctly done by majority of the candidates who attempted it. The following, however, need to be noted about input and output devices:

- * Input device is a device by which data is fed into the computer.
- * Output device is a device by which processed data (information) is obtained from the computer.

Question 3

Candidates were requested to

- (a) explain the term desktop;
- (b) list three areas of learning where I.C.T. is applied;
- (c) list two tools on the formatting toolbar of a word processing application;
- (d) state two benefits associated with the use of ICT tools in teaching and learning .

These questions were fairly satisfactorily answered by many candidates. However, most of them could not explain what desktop is. It should be noted that it is the monitor graphical interface that appears after booting a computer.

Question 4

Candidates were to:

- (a) state what Internet is and list four uses of the Internet.
- (b) state what a Web-Browser is and give two examples of a Web Browser.

Some candidates had difficulty in answering these questions. Some stated that internet is a network without relating it to the computer and the world. The uses of internet was correctly given by many candidates. Few candidates correctly stated what a web browser is and a few gave correct examples of web browser.

Question 5

This question was least popular and the most unsatisfactorily answered by the few candidates who attempted it.

Candidates were to explain Cell, Column, Row and Graph as applied to spreadsheet.

Few candidates correctly explained Cell as the rectangular space created by the intersection of row and column.

Column, Row and Graph were incorrectly explained as follows:

- * Graph is the Visual/pictorial representation of numerical data.
- * Column is a vertical portion/section of a cell on a worksheet identified by an alphabet.
- * Row is a horizontal portion/section of a cell on a worksheet identified by a number.