

GCSE

Computer Science

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mark Scheme for June 2024

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARATION FOR MARKING RM ASSESSOR

- 1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Assessor Online Training*; *OCR Essential Guide to Marking*.
- 2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are posted on the RM Cambridge Assessment Support Portal http://www.rm.com/support/ca
- 3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses ("scripts") and the **number of required** standardisation responses.

YOU MUST MARK 10 STANDARDISATION RESPONSES BEFORE YOU CAN BE APPROVED TO MARK LIVE SCRIPTS.

MARKING

- 1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
- 2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
- 3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 40% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
- 4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone or the RM Assessor messaging system, or by email.

5. Crossed Out Responses

Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

Rubric Error Responses - Optional Questions

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the highest mark from those awarded. (The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.)

Multiple Choice Question Responses

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate).

When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.

Contradictory Responses

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

Short Answer Questions (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only one mark per response)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. (The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)

Short Answer Questions (requiring a more developed response, worth two or more marks)

If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

Longer Answer Questions (requiring a developed response)

Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there, then add a tick to confirm that the work has been seen.

- 7. Award No Response (NR) if:
 - there is no attempt to answer the question (including blank responses and comments such as "I don't know")

Award Zero '0' if:

• An attempt is made in the answer space but this is not worthy of credit.

Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

- 8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your team leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**If you have any questions or comments for your team leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or e-mail.
- 9. Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.
- 10. For answers marked by levels of response (not applicable in J277/02):
 - a. To determine the level start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that matches the answer
 - b. To determine the mark within the level, consider the following

Descriptor	Award mark
On the borderline of this level and the one below	At bottom of level
Just enough achievement on balance for this level	Above bottom and either below middle or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Meets the criteria but with some slight inconsistency	Above middle and either below top of level or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Consistently meets the criteria for this level	At top of level

11. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning		
^	Omission mark		
BOD	Benefit of doubt (must be accompanied with a tick)		
Cross			
Follow through (must be accompanied with a tick)			
NAQ	Not answered question		
NBOD	Benefit of doubt not given		
REP	Repeat		
✓	Tick		
TV	Too vague		
SEEN	Blank pages, pages with no annotation, no attempt to answer the question, page seen on QER		

12. Subject Specific Marking Instructions

Mark scheme conventions:

- Each mark point is worth 1 mark unless stated otherwise
- Each mark point can only be awarded once
- A word/phrase that is <u>underlined</u> needs to be exact in the answer to award the mark point
- A word/phrase that is **bold** needs that concept to be in the answer (but can be given in multiple ways) to award the mark point
- 3 dots at the end of one mark point and at the start of the next mark point mean that the second mark point cannot be awarded without the first being awarded, unless the mark scheme states otherwise (for example a reasonable attempt with some inaccuracies)
- 3 dots at the start of a mark point, without 3 dots at the end of the mark point above, means the sentence carries on and there is no dependency
- Any text in brackets is not required to gain the mark point
- Single / means alternative word
- Double // means an alternative statement that is acceptable for the same mark point
- Enlarged font is used for visibility reasons only

Annotating scripts:

- Blank pages at the start of the script need SEEN annotation
- Any questions answered elsewhere (e.g. on the first blank pages, separately on the page) need to be linked within RM Assessor and annotated with ticks/crosses/SEEN as appropriate
- 1 tick for every mark awarded, if a question is given 3 marks there must be 3 ticks.
- A BOD or FT annotation needs to be accompanied by a tick
- Any answers with no candidate response need a SEEN annotation and NR entered as the mark.
- Any questions where the candidate has not attempted the question e.g. answered 'don't know' need a SEEN annotation and NR entered as the mark.
- All questions must be annotated throughout the marking process.

Question			Answer		Mark	Guidance
1		Programmir	ng construct	1	3 (AO1)	
	Keyword	selection	iteration		(AO1)	
	if	✓				
	for		✓			
	while		✓			

2 No need for arrows - lines • Correct shape for **all three** inputs AND outputs (parallelogram) 4 • Correct shape for decision (diamond) (AO2) are acceptable. True and False // Yes and No labelled correctly (true/Yes linking to "Even") • All lines joined up correctly and link to End. BOD for correct answers that include a loop back to the start Start INPUT num **FALSE** if num MOD 2 == 0 OUTPUT "Odd" TRUE OUTPUT "Even" End

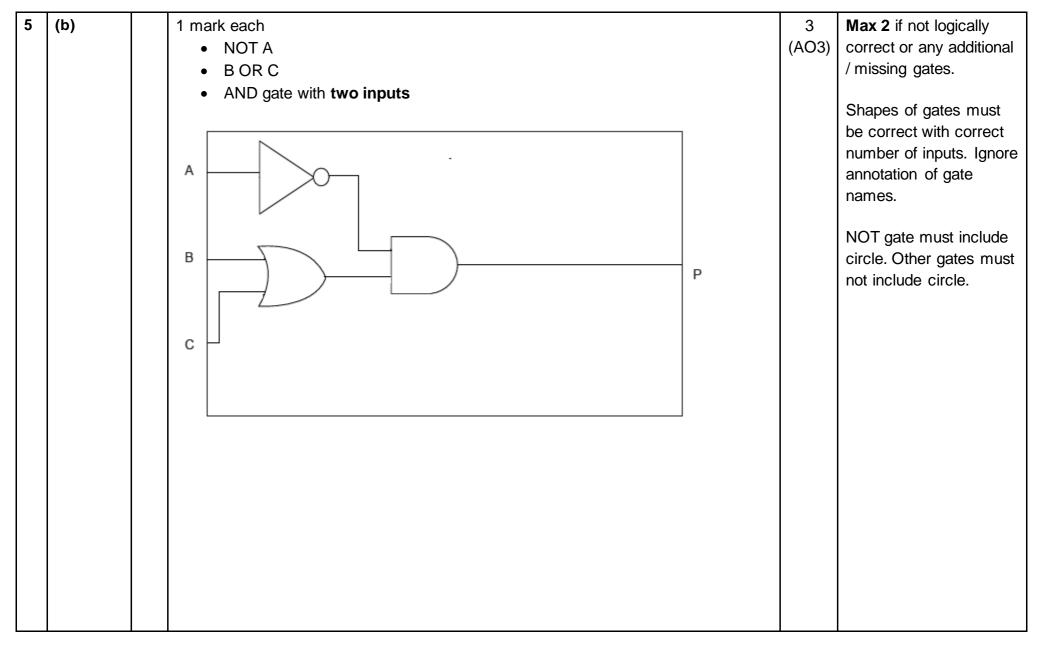
	1		1	
3	(a)	Max 1 mark for definition that is clearly different from a logic error.	2	BOD code/program etc for
		 (an error that) breaks the rules/grammar of the programming language 	(AO1)	BP1
		 Stops the program from running // does not allow program to run // crashes 		
		the program // does not allow program to translate		Do not allow answers linked
				to data types.
		Suitable example for 1 mark, e.g.		
		 misspelling key word (e.g. printt instead of print) 		"incorrect grammar" by itself
		 Missing / extra symbol (e.g. missing bracket, missing semicolon) 		is NE
		Mismatched quotes		
		 Invalid variable or function names (e.g. variable starting with a number or 		Do not allow "stop working",
		including a space)		"does not work", etc – TV.
		Incorrect use of operators		
		 Use of reserved keywords for variables (e.g. print = 3) 		Do not accept <u>missing</u>
		 Incorrect capitalisation of keywords (e.g. <u>Print</u> instead of print) 		quotation marks e.g.
		 Incorrect indentation (of code blocks) 		print(hello) (could be a
		Missing concatenation (e.g. print (score x))		variable name)
		• Missing Concatenation (e.g. print (Score x))		
				BOD given code that could
				cause a syntax error in a
				high-level language.

3	(b)		<pre>1 mark each • line 03 • total = num1 + num2 • Line 04 • if total >= 10 and total <=20 then Allow other logical equivalent code e.g.</pre>	4 (AO3)	problem identified and does not introduce any further errors. Allow descriptions of changes as long as clear
			<pre>total = int(num1) + int(num2) if 10 <= total <= 20</pre>		exactly what will change. Do not allow ambiguous descriptions of changes to code. Ignore missing then from line 04. Ignore capitalisation.
3	(c)	(i)	 1 mark each Compare to / pick out middle value (which is 6) discard only left side // retain only right side (because 6 < 10) Compare to / pick out (middle value which is) 10 	3 (AO2)	BP1 can be given for generic answer. BP2 and 3 must be linked to data set given For BP2, must remove 1, 2,5 and 6 from list if discussing individual numbers. Allow FT for BP3 if this done incorrectly.

		(ii)	Data must be sorted / in order	1 (AO1)	
		(iii)	Merge sort	1 (AO1)	
4	(a)		Input e.g. Name / keyword for video (to be searched for) // search text Controls for watching video (e.g. play / pause) Rating given to video Output e.g. Video to be watched // audio Results of search (total / overall / average) rating of video Number of views (of video) Confirmation of data entry / data validity Messages to user // example messages (e.g "enter a rating", "your rating has been saved") in quotation marks	2 (AO1)	1 mark for a suitable input, 1 mark for a suitable output Allow input / print pseudocode statements if meets mark point(s). Does not have to be valid pseudocode. Do not allow examples of inputs (e.g. "music videos")

1	(b)	Only 1 method asked for. Could be name and description/example or description	2	Allow validation / input
4	(D)			· ·
		and example	(AO1)	sanitisation / passwords as
		Authentication		expansion of anticipating
		checking users allowed to access the site / know identity of users		misuse.
		by example (e.g. username and password)		
		Anticipating misuse // preventing misuse		Allow mark for description
		 stopping the user breaking / hacking into the system 		with no / incorrect name
		by example (e.g. restricting entry to integers)		
		 Validation 		Allow any 2 points from
		 check / only allow sensible data to be entered / check data is sensible 		mark scheme as long as
		 by example (e.g. restrict ratings to 1 to 10 / presence check / format check) 		clearly linked to a single
		Input sanitisation		defensive design method.
		removing invalid/special characters		
		by example (e.g. remove quotation marks / semicolons)		
		Maintainability		
		ensuring program is able to be understood by others		
		by example (e.g. modularisation / comments)		

5	(a)	1 mark per grou	p of 2 rc)WS				4 (AO2)	Accept True / False etc.
			Α	В	С	Р		(AO2)	
			0	0	0	0	1 mark		
			0	0	1	1			
			0	1	0	0	1 mork		
			0	1	1	1	1 mark		
			1	0	0	0]		
			1	0	1	1	1 mark		
			1	1	0	1	1		
			1	1	1	1	1 mark		



6	(a)	1 mark for each output	3 (AO2)	Case must be correct but BOD if ambiguous.
		print(message.upper) ABCD1234 (upper case)		Allow quotation marks in
		print(message.left(4)) abcd (lower case)		answer.
		<pre>print(int(message.right(4))*2)</pre> <pre>2468</pre>		
6	(b)	1 mark per bullet point: • storing both strings correctly in word1 and word2 • correct concatenation (word1 then word2) •storing in variable message Example word1 = "Hello" word2 = "Everyone" message = word1 + word2	3 (AO3)	Accept & / + / . etc as valid methods of concatenation. Allow use of sensible concatenation functions e.g. concat() . Do not allow commas. Do not allow == for assigning value to string. Do not allow spaces in variable names. Penalise once then FT. Ignore additional code given. Ignore case. Reasonable attempt at BP2 needed to access BP3.

7	(a)	 1 mark each to max 2 (machine code) does not need to be translated / compiled / interpreted Direct control of hardware / memory Faster execution time Code can be optimised / shorter code / use less memory Can program for specific hardware Assembly language is fast to translate. 	2 (AO1)	"More efficient" by itself is TV. Mark first answer on each line. BP6 relates to Assembly language being a one-to-one direct mapping to machine code.
7	(b)	 1 mark each to max 3 Can produce an executable file program/code runs/executes faster (than interpreted version) end users do not need translator Can be run again/multiple times without re-translating // only needs to translate once End users have no access to source code // distributed with no source code cannot steal/copy/modify code/program Shows all/multiple errors // shows errors at the end (of compilation) // creates error file Compiler can optimise the code 	3 (AO1)	Allow in reverse (e.g. "interpreter translates every time") Do not allow "no access to source code" unless clearly talking about end user. Allow if in context of distribution. Do not allow descriptions of how a compiler translates (e.g. "translates whole code in one go") "Faster / quicker" by itself is TV

8	(a)	 2 marks max per group Meaningful identifiers // meaningful variable names to describe/show what they store // purpose of variable An example of a meaningful variable identifier for this algorithm 	4 (AO2)	Do not accept "what variables do" – incorrect verb, variables store/hold data.
		 Comments to make it easier for other programmers to follow / understand (part of) the code // explains what the code does // easier to debug An example of a suitable comment for this algorithm 		BOD notes (and alternatives) for comments. Do not allow instructions.
		 Use of subroutines to reuse blocks of code // make code easier to follow An example of a subroutine for this algorithm 		Do not allow indentation (already done in program given)
		 Use of constants to store data that will not change (during program execution) // so data can be changed in one place only An example of a constant for this algorithm (e.g. store 512 as a constant) 		Allow whitespace / blank lines (same expansions as comments)
				Do not award expansion without being clear which method is being discussed. "Makes it easier to understand" by itself is TV.

(b) Allow else for BP3/4 6 1 mark each to max 6 (validated in question 8a) • Appropriate use of **both parameters** and **no additional inputs** / (AO3) incorrect overwrites that affect outcome of algorithm Allow <=, >= and equivalents Attempt at selection... (e.g. \leq 0) for BP5. • ...correctly checking if direction is "left" and subtracting 5 from position (or equivalent) Do not award BP5 if before • ...correctly checking if direction is "right" and adding 5 to position BP3 and 4 (otherwise will (or equivalent) alter position value) • Ensuring position (or equivalent) is between 1 and 512 inclusive BP6 only to be given if **Returning** the updated position attempt made at calculating new position. Calculation can Example be partial/incorrect. if direction == "left" then position = position - 5Ignore repeat of function elseif direction == "right" then header / end. position = position + 5endif Accept flowchart / structured English but must not just if position < 1 then repeat the question. position = 1 If response uses loop to elseif position > 512 then incorrectly change position position = 512multiple times, do not award endif BP1 (incorrect overwrite) return position For minor syntax errors (e.g. missing quotation marks or == for assignment, spaces in variable names) penalise once then FT.

Section B

	Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
9	(a)	(i)	StringIntegerReal / Float	3 (AO3)	Accept alternative equivalent correct data types (e.g. single/double/decimal for BP3)
					Do not accept char for BP1
		(ii)	 theTeam.length() - 1 // 5 count studentName True 	4 (AO3)	Accept 6 // theTeam.length() for BP1 (Python). Accept alternative length functions e.g. len() Accept count = 5 (and equivalents) for BP1. Accept "True" for BP4. Do not allow obvious spaces in variable names.
					Ignore capitalisation.

Question		А	nswer	•	Mark	Guidance
(b)	 javelinThrow set to 14.3 on line 01 and yearGroup set to 10 on line 02 score set to 2 on line 06 score set to 4 on line 11 "The score is 4" output on line 13 with no additional outputs (allow input statements) Example				4 (AO3)	Max 3 if in wrong order or additional (incorrect) changes. Penalise line numbers once then FT. Allow FT for BP4 for current value of score. BP4 must not include comma. Ignore
	Line javelinThro	yearGroup	score	Output		superfluous spaces. Ignore quotation marks.
	01 14.3	10				
	02	10	_			Treat any entry in output column as
			2			an output, even if "x", "-" or "0".
	11 13		4	The score is 4		
	(i.e. lines 3, 4, 5, 7	8, 9, 10, 13 esn't chang	2).	changes or output happens rent value may be repeated		

Question	Answer	Mark	Guidance
(c) (i)	<pre>• inputs a value from the user and stores/uses • checks min value (>= 40.0 // < 40) • checks max value (<=180.0 // > 180) •outputs both valid / not valid correctly based on checks Example 1 (checking for valid input) h = input ("Enter height jumped") if h >= 40 and h <= 180 then print ("valid") else print ("not valid") endif Example 2 (checking for invalid input) h = input ("Enter height jumped") if h < 40 or h > 180 then print ("not valid") else print ("not valid") else print ("valid") endif</pre>	4 (AO3)	Answers using AND/OR for BP2 and BP3 must be logically correct e.g. if height >=40 and height <=180. Do not accept if height >=40 and <=180 Answers using OR will reverse output for BP4 (see examples). BP4 needs reasonable attempt at either BP2 or BP3. Need to be sure what is being checked to be able to decide which way around valid/invalid should be. Allow FT for BP4 if reasonable attempt at validating (must include at least one boundary) Ignore conversion to int on input. input cannot be used as a variable name. Greater than / less than symbols must be appropriate for a high-level language / ERL. Do not accept => (wrong way around) or ≥ (not available on keyboard). No obvious spaces in variable names. Penalise once and then FT.

Question	Answer		Guidance
(c) (ii)	 Any normal value (between 40 and 180 inclusive) 40.0 // 180.0 Any value less then 40 // any value greater that 180 // any non-numeric value 	3 (AO3)	No need to include decimals, e.g. accept 50. Ignore cm if given. Answer must be actual data (e.g. 50) and not description of data (e.g. "a value between 40 and 180"). If descriptions given, do not accept this as non-numeric for BP3
(d)	 TeamName only in first space TblResult in second space WHERE YearGroup = 11 	4 (AO3)	Max 3 if not in correct order / includes other logical errors. Ignore capitals. Do not accept * or additional fields for BP1 Spelling must be accurate (e.g. not TblResults). No spaces in field names, penalise obvious spaces once and then FT. Allow quotation marks around field names, table name and 11 Accept == for BP4 (invalid SQL but works in some environments)

Question	Answer	Mark	Guidance	
(e) (i)	any example of simplification/removing data or focussing on data (in the design) Examples: - "focus on student names and events" - "ignore data such as students' favourite subjects" - "store year groups instead of ages or DOB" - "shows student IDs instead of full student details"	1 (AO3)	Must be applicable to this program (in the context of students and a sports day), not a generic description of what abstraction is. Give BOD where this is unclear.	
(ii)	any example of breaking down the program into sections/subroutines any example of breaking down the database into tables Examples: - "splits the program up into different events" - "separates the validation routines into subroutines" - "breaks the database down into a table per event"	1 (AO3)	Must be applicable to this program, not a generic description of what decomposition is. Give BOD where this is unclear. Do not give answers discussing splitting into fields (e.g. split into StudentID, YearGroup, etc). BOD if answer discusses one table but suggests other tables could be used. Do not give answers relating simply to data being split into smaller groups unless this clearly relates to how data is decomposed into tables in the DB. Allow reference to sports day to mean sports day program.	

Question	Question Answer		Guidance	
Question (f)	 Input team name AND score and store / use separately Attempt at using iteration to enter team/score until "stop" entered Calculates highest score Calculates winning team name Outputs highest score and team name Example 1 highscore = 0 while team != "stop" team = input("enter team name") score = input("enter score") if score > highscore then highscore = score highteam = team	6 (AO3)	For BP3, allow "stop" to be entered for either team name or score (or both). Allow third input (e.g. "do you wish to stop?") Allow use of break (or equivalent) to exit loop for BP3. Allow use of recursive function(s) for BP2/3. Initialisation of variables not needed - assume variables are 0 or empty string if not set. Ignore that multiple teams could get	
	<pre>endif endwhile print (highscore) print (highteam) Example 2 (alternative) scores = [] teams = [] while team != "stop" team = input("enter team name") score = input ("enter score") scores.append(score) teams.append(team) endwhile highscore = max[scores] highteam = teams[scores.index(highscore)]</pre>		the same high score, assume only one team has the highest score. BP4/5 could be done in many ways – see examples. Allow any logically valid method. Allow use of max/sum functions and use of arrays/lists. FT for BP6 if attempt made at calculating highest score/name If answer simply asks for multiple entries (not using iteration), BP2 and 3 cannot be accessed but all others available.	

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