OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

ELC

Computing

Entry Level Certificate **R353**

OCR Report to Centres June 2016

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It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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General Comments:

There continues to be a good range of centres and age groups participating in the Entry Level Certificate Computing course.

As the course has become more established the quality of work produced and accuracy of its marking has steadily improved.

The vast majority of centres submitted their tests alongside their coursework. This helped the moderation process run smoothly. A very small number centres did however need reminding that test papers must be included.

Overall administration was very strong with samples being sent well-ordered and with the correct paperwork. Some centres showed best practice clearly marking on the Internal Assessment Criteria (IAC) form how much support candidates had been given for each section. This helps with moderation and all centres are encouraged to take this approach with the IAC. An increasing number of centres are sensibly submitting their work via the Repository or post using CD/USB drives. This is much more preferable to (and cost effective for centres than) sending large parcels containing paper printouts.

Comments on Individual Questions:

Strand One: Hardware/Software/ Logic Tests

It was pleasing that most centres remembered to include their test papers with their submission. Many candidates performed very well in the tests showing a strong understanding. There were a small number who struggled to access many marks and perhaps need more time to consolidate their knowledge and understanding before taking the tests.

Tests were generally marked very accurately.

Strand Two: Programming

The Scratch *Diamond Miner* task proved the most popular though a good number of candidates are still choosing the Python option.

When *Planning* how their program will work some candidates provided both flowcharts and pseudocode to 'plan how their program will work'. Either is an acceptable method and whilst they are quite welcome to, there is no necessity for candidates to do both.

For the *Use of Techniques* and *Outcome* sections it is particularly useful to mark on the IAC the level of assistance given. Some candidates provided some very rigorous testing of their programs. This was highly commendable and excellent preparation for GCSE but centres should keep in mind this goes above and beyond what is necessary for full marks in the *Test and Evaluate* section at this level.

Strand Three: Trends in Computing

Whilst mobile phones and games consoles remained popular choices, there is a steadily growing range of topics for the Trends in Computing strand. Unsurprisingly with recent developments, Virtual Reality featured in a good number of projects,

Where candidates struggle to express their understanding in written form, some centres provided audio/video evidence of their understanding. This generally worked well and allowed candidates to access the full range of available marks.

Disappointingly a minority of candidates copied large chunks of text from other sources into their presentations. Such text will not receive credit and in severe cases where it seems the candidate has tried to pass work off as their own, will be subject to malpractice proceedings. Whilst it is appreciated that referencing skills may not be well developed at this level, candidates should be encouraged to clearly indicate where text/quotes has been taken from another source.

Overall the majority of the Trends in Computing projects were of a high quality.

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