

Cambridge International AS & A Level

COMPUTER SCIENCE**9618/22**

Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

May/June 2025

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 75

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

Due to a series-specific issue during the live exam series, all candidates were awarded full marks for questions 1(a)(ii) and 1(b)(ii). The mark scheme for these questions was not used by examiners.

This document consists of **20** printed pages.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Benefit of the doubt
	To indicate where a key word/phrase/code is missing
	Incorrect
	Follow through
	Indicate a point in an answer
Highlighted text	To draw attention to a particular aspect or to indicate where parts of an answer have been combined
	Ignore
	Not answered question
	No benefit of doubt given
	No examples or not enough
	Not relevant or used to separate parts of an answer
Off-page comment	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to.
	Repetition

Annotation	Meaning
	Indicates that work or a page has been seen including blank answer spaces and blank pages.
	Correct
	Too vague

Mark scheme abbreviations

/	separates alternative words / phrases within a marking point
//	separates alternative answers within a marking point
<u>Underline</u>	actual word given must be used by candidate (grammatical variants accepted)
Max	indicates the maximum number of marks that can be awarded
()	the word / phrase in brackets is not required, but sets the context
bold	word/phrase in bold indicates this is a key word/phrase in the candidates answer and this word/phrase or a word/phrase with a similar meaning must be present

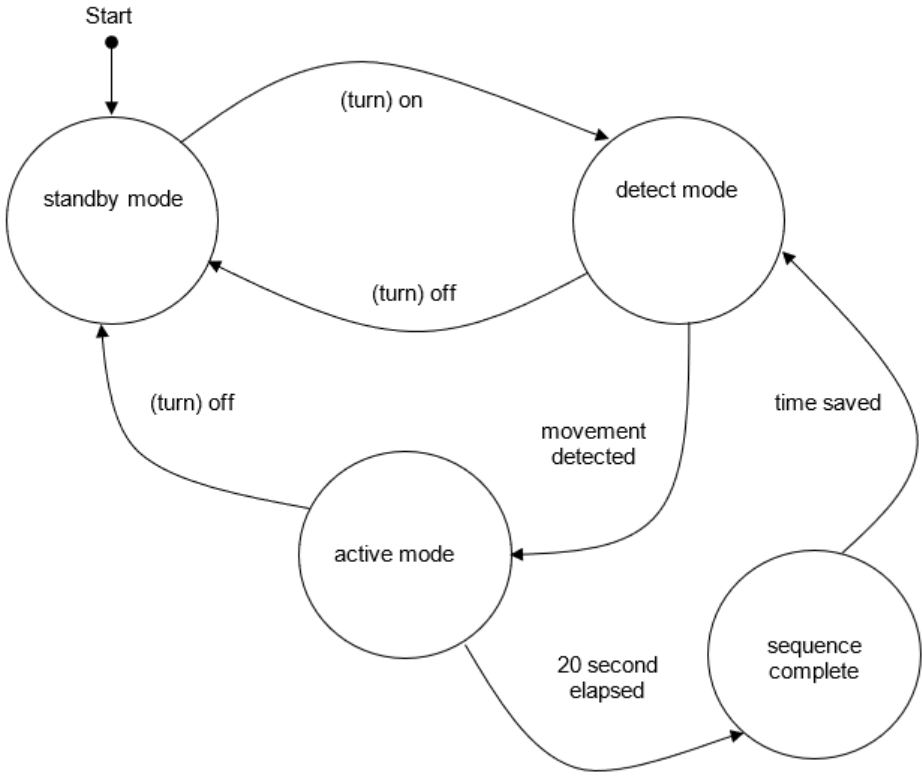
Question	Answer	Marks										
1(a)(i)	One mark for Choice of program development cycle depends on the approach/method required to produce the program Or One mark for a factor that would influence the choice of program development cycle, e.g. • Rapid development of program/prototypes required • Need for prototypes (at an early stage) • Complexity of problem • Skills / experience of development team / programmer(s) • Budget / Time / Resources available • Size of development team • Developer / programmer can return to earlier stages / any stage • Avoidance of repeating previous stages in development of program • How much involvement clients will have • Allows the (program) requirements to be changed during program development • (Program) requirements agreed at start of development of program Max 1	1										
1(a)(ii)	Which programming language would best be suited to control the production line // Which programming language would best suit the problem being solved	1										
1(b)(i)	Examples include: • Change to (production line) requirements • New technology / hardware available (to control production line) • Changes made to library modules used • Change in relevant legislation Max 3	3										
1(b)(ii)	Perfective // Corrective	1										
1(c)	1 mark for each correct row <table><tr><th>Expression</th><th>Data type</th></tr><tr><td>RIGHT(MachineCode, 4)</td><td>STRING</td></tr><tr><td>Speed * 2.5</td><td>REAL</td></tr><tr><td>NOT Status</td><td>BOOLEAN</td></tr><tr><td>IS_NUM(Check)</td><td>BOOLEAN</td></tr></table>	Expression	Data type	RIGHT(MachineCode, 4)	STRING	Speed * 2.5	REAL	NOT Status	BOOLEAN	IS_NUM(Check)	BOOLEAN	4
Expression	Data type											
RIGHT(MachineCode, 4)	STRING											
Speed * 2.5	REAL											
NOT Status	BOOLEAN											
IS_NUM(Check)	BOOLEAN											
1(d)(i)	Two / 2	1										

Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)(ii)	1000	1
1(d)(iii)	DECLARE Product : ARRAY [0:99, 0:9] OF INTEGER 1 mark for correct upper and lower bound • [0:99, 0:9 1 mark for all other parts of declaration <u>DECLARE Product : ARRAY [0:99, 0:9] OF INTEGER</u>	2

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Mark as follows: - To increase the level of detail of the algorithm // To break the problem / task into smaller steps until steps can be directly translated into lines of code // from which it can be programmed	2
2(b)(i)	One mark for each of set test values Hours worked between 1 and 40 inclusive Sales value ≤ 2000 Bonus Pay: 0 Hours worked above 40 Sales value ≤ 2000 Bonus Pay: 10 Hours worked between 1 and 40 inclusive Sales value > 2000 Bonus Pay: 50 Hours worked above 40 Sales value above 2000 Bonus Pay: 100 max 2	2
2(b)(ii)	One mark per point - Simple modules are written to replace each of the unfinished modules. - Each simple module will return an expected value / will output a message to show it has been called.	2
2(b)(iii)	One mark for naming type of error and one mark for corresponding description Type of error: Logic (error) Description: Where the program does not behave as expected / Does not give expected result / An error in the logic of the algorithm Or Type of error: Run-time (error) Description: The program performs an illegal operation Max 2	2

Question	Answer	Marks
3	Example solution <pre> DECLARE FirstNumber : INTEGER DECLARE SecondNumber : INTEGER DECLARE ThirdNumber : INTEGER FirstNumber ← INT(RAND(21)) - 10 OUTPUT FirstNumber REPEAT SecondNumber ← INT(RAND(21)) - 10 UNTIL FirstNumber <> SecondNumber OUTPUT SecondNumber IF FirstNumber < 0 AND SecondNumber < 0 THEN ThirdNumber ← INT(RAND(6)) + 30 OUTPUT ThirdNumber ENDIF Mark points: 1. Declare all variables used 2. Use RAND() function with any integer parameter 3. Use INT() function with any numeric parameter 4. Conditional loop until two different random numbers are generated 5. Use INT() function using random number generated between –10 and 10 inclusive in a loop 6. Output two different random integers / numbers 7. Check if both random integers / numbers are negative 8. then output a (third) random integer / number between 30 and 35 inclusive </pre>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4	<pre> graph TD START([START]) --> SET1[SET Count To 1] SET1 --> IS101{Is Count = 101?} IS101 -- YES --> SET100[Set Count To 100] IS101 -- NO --> INPUT[/INPUT Value/] INPUT --> SETVAL[Set Number[Count] To Value] SETVAL --> INC[Increment Count] INC --> IS101 SET100 --> IS0{Is Count = 0?} IS0 -- YES --> END([END]) IS0 -- NO --> OUTPUT[/OUTPUT Number[Count]/] OUTPUT --> DEC[Decrement Count] DEC --> IS0 </pre> One mark for each functional group as listed: 1. Initialise Index used for Number to either 1 or 0 before first loop 2. Loop 100 times 3. Input value 4. Increment array index and store value in Number array at element referenced by array index in a loop 5. Output loop starts at last element in Number array 6. Output Number array element referenced by Index in a loop 7. Output all elements of Number array once in reverse order Max 6	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	 Mark as follows: 1 Mark: The three new states drawn and labelled. 1 Mark: Two of the events drawn with labels connecting correct states and correct line direction 1 Mark: Four of the events drawn with labels connecting correct states and correct line direction. 1 Mark: All and only six events drawn with labels connecting correct states and correct line direction.	4

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	Conditional Solution Example Solution <pre> DECLARE Count : INTEGER DECLARE Line : STRING DECLARE NextHour, Hour : STRING OPENFILE "TimeTaken.txt" FOR READ Count ← 1 READFILE "TimeTaken.txt", Line Hour ← LEFT(Line, 2) WHILE NOT EOF("TimeTaken.txt") READFILE "TimeTaken.txt", Line NextHour ← LEFT(Line, 2) IF NextHour = Hour THEN Count ← Count + 1 ELSE OUTPUT "Hour : ", Hour, " Total : ", Count Hour ← NextHour Count ← 1 ENDIF ENDWHILE OUTPUT "Hour : ", Hour, " Total : ", Count CLOSEFILE "TimeTaken.txt" </pre> Mark as follows: - Any Initialisation of count for number of pictures taken each hour - Open "TimeTaken.txt" for read and subsequently close - Conditional loop until EOF - Read a line from "TimeTaken.txt" in a loop - Extract Hour from line read in a loop - A mechanism to compare current hour extracted from file with last one read from file in a loop - If hours same increment count in a loop - If not same output count (with a suitable message) and update Hour ← NextHour and set Count to 1 in a loop - Output final Count and Hour (with a suitable message) once only Note: max 8	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	Alternative solution and mark scheme use of an array to hold count for each hour Also, for use of 24 variables and 24 selection conditions <pre> DECLARE HoursArray[0 : 23] OF INTEGER DECLARE Index, Hour : INTEGER DECLARE Line : STRING FOR Index ← 0 TO 23 HoursArray[Index] ← 0 NEXT Index OPENFILE "TimeTaken.txt" FOR READ WHILE NOT EOF("TimeTaken.txt") READFILE "TimeTaken.txt", Line Hour ← STR_TO_NUM(LEFT(Line, 2)) HoursArray[Hour] ← HoursArray[Hour] + 1 ENDWHILE FOR Index ← 0 TO 23 IF HoursArray[Index] <> 0 THEN OUTPUT "Hour : ", Index, " Total : ", HoursArray[Index] ENDIF NEXT Index CLOSEFILE "TimeTaken.txt" Mark as follows: 1. Initialisation of 24 array elements to 0 // Initialisation of 24 Integer variables to 0 2. Open "TimeTaken.txt" for read and subsequently close 3. Conditional loop until EOF 4. Read a line from "TimeTaken.txt" in a loop 5. Extract Hour from line read in a loop 6. Convert Hour to an integer value in a loop 7. Increment appropriate array element / variable in a loop 8. Output of each hour and corresponding count variable (with a suitable message) for all values where count is not zero </pre>	

Question	Answer						Marks																																											
6(a)(i)	<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Start</th><th>Unused</th><th>New</th><th>Last</th><th>Current</th></tr><tr><td>1043</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>-1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						Value	Start	Unused	New	Last	Current	1043	2	8	8	-1	2					2	3					3	1					1	7					7	4							Region 1	4
	Value	Start	Unused	New	Last	Current																																												
	1043	2	8	8	-1	2																																												
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							Region 2																																											
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						Region 4																																												
Award 1 mark per region																																																		
6(a)(ii)	Data			Pointer			3																																											
	1	1018		1	7																																													
	2	1007		2	3																																													
	3	1010		3	1																																													
	4	1056		4	6																																													
	5	1092		5	-1																																													
	6	1062		6	5																																													
	7	1034		7	8																																													
	8	1043		8	4																																													
	9	0		9	10																																													
	10	0		10	-1																																													
	Mark as follows:																																																	
	1 mark for global array Data row 8 containing the value 1043																																																	
1 mark for global array Pointer row 7 containing the value 8 and row 8 containing the value 4																																																		
1 mark for all other rows in both arrays																																																		

Question	Answer	Marks
6(b)	Example answer: The ADT is a linked list and the procedure Place() inserts / add a new node / value into it / the linked list Mark as follows: 1 mark for identifying the ADT as a linked list 1 mark for identifying operation as inserting / adding a value / node into a linked list	2

Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)	Example solution Conditional Loop <pre> FUNCTION FindCustomer(CustomerID : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER DECLARE Index : INTEGER DECLARE Found : BOOLEAN CONSTANT Unused = 99999 CONSTANT Upper = 1000 Found ← FALSE Index ← 1 IF CustomerID < 10001 OR CustomerID > 11000 THEN RETURN -1 // Out of range value for customer ID ENDIF WHILE Found = FALSE AND Loyalty[Index, 1] <> 99999 IF Loyalty[Index,1] = CustomerID THEN Found ← TRUE ELSE Index ← Index + 1 ENDIF IF Index > Upper THEN RETURN -1 ENDIF ENDWHILE IF Found THEN RETURN Loyalty[Index, 2] ELSE RETURN -1 ENDIF ENDFUNCTION </pre> Mark as follows: 1. Create function header and ending with correct parameter and return type 2. Check CustomerID is in range and if not return -1 3. (Conditional) loop iterating through each element in array 4. Check for current element in array contains required customer ID in a loop 5. ... If found set value to terminate loop 6. Terminating loop when customer ID found 7. Terminating loop when current customer ID is 99999 8. Return either loyalty points for the customer found or -1 if not found	8

Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)	Alternative solution using FOR Loop Example solution <pre> FUNCTION FindCustomer(CustomerID : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER DECLARE Index : INTEGER IF CustomerID < 10001 OR CustomerID > 11000 THEN RETURN -1 // Out of range value for customer ID ENDIF FOR Index ← 1 TO 1000 IF Loyalty[Index, 1] = CustomerID THEN RETURN Loyalty[Index, 2] ENDIF IF Loyalty[Index, 1] = 99999 THEN RETURN -1 ENDIF NEXT Index ENDFUNCTION </pre> Mark as follows: 1. Create function header and ending with correct parameter and return type 2. Check CustomerID is within range and if not return –1 3. FOR Loop 4. Loop for elements 1 to 1000 / 0 to 999 5. Check if current element in array contains required Customer ID in a loop 6. ... If found correctly return loyalty points // store correct loyalty points and return after loop 7. Check if current element in array is 99999 and return –1 / break loop in a loop 8. return –1 if Customer ID not found Direct access solution Alternative solution subtracting 10000 from CustomerID <pre> FUNCTION FindCustomer(CustomerID : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER DECLARE Index : INTEGER IF CustomerID < 10001 OR CustomerID > 11000 THEN RETURN -1 // Out of range value for customer ID ENDIF </pre>	

Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)	<pre> Index = CustomerID - 10000 IF Loyalty[Index, 1] = CustomerID THEN RETURN Loyalty[Index, 2] ENDIF RETURN -1 ENDFUNCTION Mark as follows: 1. Create function header and ending with correct parameter and return type 2. Declare Index as Integer 3. Check CustomerID is less than 10001 and return -1 if it is 4. Check CustomerID is greater than 11000 and return -1 if it is 5. Calculate Index by subtracting a 10000 from CustomerID 6. Check if array contains the CustomerID 7. Return Loyalty Points if CustomerID found 8. Return -1 if not found Binary Search Mark Scheme Example Solution FUNCTION FindCustomer(CustomerID : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER DECLARE Start : INTEGER DECLARE End : INTEGER DECLARE Mid : INTEGER IF CustomerID < 10001 OR CustomerID > 11000 THEN RETURN -1 // Out of range value for customer ID ENDIF Start ← 1 End ← 1000 WHILE Start <= End Mid ← (Start + End) DIV 2 IF Loyalty[Mid, 1] = CustomerID THEN RETURN Loyalty[Mid, 2] ELSE IF Loyalty[Mid, 1] > CustomerID THEN End ← Mid - 1 ELSE Start ← Mid + 1 ENDIF ENDWHILE RETURN -1 ENDFUNCTION </pre>	

Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)	Mark points 1. Create function header and ending with correct parameter and return type 2. Check CustomerID is within range and if not return –1 3. Conditional loop that halves array search space with each iteration 4. Check if CustomerID is stored in current array element in a loop 5. Mechanism to end loop if CustomerID is found in array in a loop 6. Mechanism to end loop if CustomerID is not in array in a loop 7. If CustomerID found in array then return correct loyalty points 8. If CustomerID not in array then return –1	
7(b)	Example solution <pre> PROCEDURE PointsReport() DECLARE Count : INTEGER DECLARE Index : INTEGER DECLARE Sum : INTEGER DECLARE Average : REAL Index ← 1 Count ← 0 Sum ← 0 WHILE Loyalty[Index, 1] <> 99999 AND Index <= 1000 IF Loyalty[Index, 2] >= 11 THEN OUTPUT Loyalty[Index, 1] ENDIF Count ← Count + 1 Sum ← Sum + Loyalty[Index, 2] Index ← Index + 1 ENDWHILE Average ← Sum / Count OUTPUT "The average points of all the customers is ", Average ENDPROCEDURE </pre> Mark as follows: 1. Create procedure header and ending 2. Declare and initialise Index, Sum and Count 3. Loop through all elements in Loyalty array 4. ... or terminates when column1 of Loyalty array equals 99999 in a loop 5. Check if loyalty points greater than or equal to 11 in a loop 6. If true output customer ID 7 Sum points and Increment Count in a loop 8 Calculate and output average with an appropriate message Max 7	7

Question	Answer	Marks
7(c)(i)	An array can only store data of the same type // An array cannot store data of different types	1
7(c)(ii)	1 mark for each point - a new (composite) data type / record is defined (that consists of both INTEGER and STRING) - an array based on this new type is declared Alternative 1 mark for each point - Converting loyalty points to string and concatenating / joining / append with Customer ID - Storing concatenated string in an array of string	2