



Cambridge International AS & A Level

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COMPUTER SCIENCE

9618/21

Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

October/November 2022

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
- Calculators must **not** be used in this paper.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 75.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- No marks will be awarded for using brand names of software packages or hardware.
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

This document has **20** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Refer to the **insert** for the list of pseudocode functions and operators.

- 1 (a) An algorithm includes a number of complex calculations. A programmer is writing a program to implement the algorithm and decides to use library routines to provide part of the solution.

State **three** possible benefits of using library routines in the development of the program.

1

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2

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3

.....

[3]

- (b) The following pseudocode is part of a program that stores names and test marks for use in other parts of the program.

```

DECLARE Name1, Name2, Name3 : STRING
DECLARE Mark1, Mark2, Mark3 : INTEGER
INPUT Name1
INPUT Mark1
INPUT Name2
INPUT Mark2
INPUT Name3
INPUT Mark3

```

- (i) The pseudocode needs to be changed to allow for data to be stored for up to 30 students.

Explain why it would be good practice to use arrays to store the data.

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[3]

3

(ii) The following pseudocode statement includes array references:

```
OUTPUT "Student ", Name[Count], " scored ", Mark[Count]
```

State the purpose of the variable `Count` and give its data type.

Purpose

.....

Data type

[2]

(c) The pseudocode statements in the following table may contain errors.

State the error in each case or write 'NO ERROR' if the statement contains no error.

Assume that any variables used are of the correct type for the given function.

Statement	Error
IF EMPTY ← " " THEN	
Status ← IS_NUM(-23.4)	
X ← STR_TO_NUM("37") + 5	
Y ← STR_TO_NUM("37" + "5")	

[4]

- 2 A system is being developed to help manage a car hire business. A customer may hire a car for a number of days.

An abstract model needs to be produced.

- (a) Explain the process of abstraction **and** state **four** items of data that should be stored each time a car is hired.

Explanation

.....

Item 1

Item 2

Item 3

Item 4

[3]

- (b) Identify **two** operations that would be required to process the car hire data.

Operation 1

.....

Operation 2

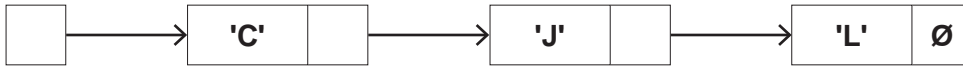
.....

[2]

- 4 (a) The following diagram shows an Abstract Data Type (ADT) representation of an ordered linked list. The data item stored in each node is a single character. The data will be accessed in alphabetical order.

The symbol \emptyset represents a null pointer.

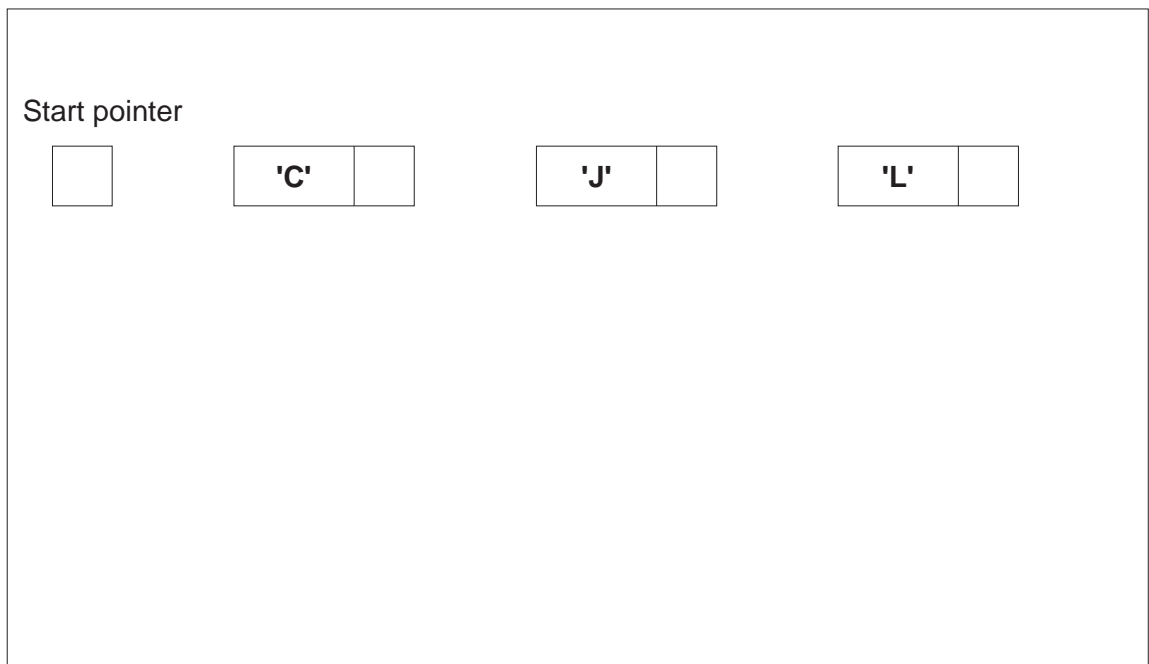
Start pointer



- (i) Nodes with data 'A' and 'K' are added to the linked list. Nodes with data 'J' and 'L' are deleted.

After the changes, the data items still need to be accessed in alphabetical order.

Complete the diagram to show the new state of the linked list.



[4]

- (ii) The original data could have been stored in a 1D array in which each element stores a character.

For example:



Explain the advantages of making the changes described in **part (a)(i)** when the data is stored in the linked list instead of an array.

.....

.....

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..... [2]

(iii) Explain the disadvantages of making the changes described in **part (a)(i)** when the data is stored in the linked list instead of an array.

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.....
..... [2]

(b) A program will store data using a linked list like the one shown in **part (a)**.

Explain how the linked list can be implemented.

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..... [4]

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- 6 The following pseudocode algorithm attempts to check whether a string is a valid email address.

```

FUNCTION IsValid(InString : STRING) RETURNS BOOLEAN
  DECLARE Index, Dots, Ats, Others : INTEGER
  DECLARE NextChar : CHAR
  DECLARE Valid : BOOLEAN

  Index ← 1
  Dots ← 0
  Ats ← 0
  Others ← 0
  Valid ← TRUE

  REPEAT
    NextChar ← MID(InString, Index, 1)
    CASE OF NextChar
      '.' : Dots ← Dots + 1
      '@' : Ats ← Ats + 1
            IF Ats > 1 THEN
              Valid ← FALSE
            ENDIF
      OTHERWISE : Others ← Others + 1
    ENDCASE

    IF Dots > 1 AND Ats = 0 THEN
      Valid ← FALSE
    ELSE
      Index ← Index + 1
    ENDIF

  UNTIL Index > LENGTH(InString) OR Valid = FALSE

  IF NOT (Dots >= 1 AND Ats = 1 AND Others > 8) THEN
    Valid ← FALSE
  ENDIF

  RETURN Valid

ENDFUNCTION

```

- (a) Part of the validation is implemented by the line:

```
IF NOT (Dots >= 1 AND Ats = 1 AND Others > 8) THEN
```

State the values that would result in the condition evaluating to TRUE.

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..... [1]

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..... [7]

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