



Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

--	--	--	--	--

Candidate number

--	--	--	--

Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Paper 1 Computational thinking and programming skills – C#

Monday 12 May 2025

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

- There are no additional materials required for this paper.
- You must **not** use a calculator.



Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Use pencil only for drawing.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Questions that require a coded solution must be answered in C#.
- You should assume that all indexing in code starts at 0 unless stated otherwise.

Information

The total number of marks available for this paper is 90.

Advice

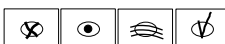
For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8–9	
10	
11	
TOTAL	

For the multiple-choice questions, completely fill in the lozenge alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD



WRONG METHODS



If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.



If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.



J U N 2 5 8 5 2 5 1 A 0 1

IB/G/Jun25/G4003/E10

8525/1A

Answer **all** questions.

Do not write
outside the
box

0 1

Figure 1 shows a program written in C#.

- Line numbers are included but are not part of the program.

Figure 1

```
1    // C# program
2    int a = 1;
3    int b = 1;
4    int c = 5;
5    while (b < c) {
6        a = a + a;
7        b = b + 1;
8        Console.WriteLine(a);
9    }
```

0 1 . 1

Where is an arithmetic operation **first** used in the program in **Figure 1**?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

A Line number 1

☐

B Line number 5

☐

C Line number 6

☐

D Line number 8

☐

0 1 . 2

Which of the following is a **false** statement about the program in **Figure 1**?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

A This program contains a comment.

☐

B This program uses assignment.

☐

C This program uses concatenation.

☐

D This program uses iteration.

☐

013

State the relational operator used in the program in **Figure 1**.

[1 mark]

014

Complete the trace table for the program in **Figure 1**.

You may not need to use all the rows in the table.

[4 marks]

a	b	c	Output

7

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



0 2

A coffee shop has a loyalty scheme which rewards customers for buying drinks. The customer gets one stamp on their loyalty card for each individual drink they buy.

- Every 4th stamp on the card gets the customer a free biscuit.
- Every 5th stamp on the card gets the customer a free pastry.
- When the customer reaches 20 stamps, they get a free cake (but **no** biscuit or pastry).

The C# program shown in **Figure 2** should display whether the customer gets a free biscuit, pastry, cake or nothing free for each of their first 20 drinks.

For each drink purchased, the program **must** output either: "Free biscuit", "Free pastry", "Free cake" or "Nothing free".

Some parts of the program have been replaced with the labels **L1** to **L3**.

Figure 2

```
int i = 1;
while (i <= 20) {
    if (i % 20 == 0) {
        Console.WriteLine("Free cake");
    }
    else if ( L1 ) {
        Console.WriteLine("Free pastry");
    }
    else if (i % 4 == 0) {
        L2;
    }
    else {
        L3;
    }
    i = i + 1;
}
```

0 2 . 1

State the C# code that should be written in place of the labels in the program written in **Figure 2**.

[3 marks]

L1 _____

L2 _____

L3 _____



Do not write
outside the
box

0 2 . 2

The coffee shop wants to work out the total value of the free biscuits, pastries and cakes given out each day.

- Each free biscuit is worth £1
- Each free pastry is worth £2.50
- Each free cake is worth £3

Write a C# program to get the number of free biscuits, pastries and cakes, and calculate the total value for the day.

Your program must:

- get the user to enter the number of free biscuits and store it in a variable
- get the user to enter the number of free pastries and store it in a variable
- get the user to enter the number of free cakes and store it in a variable
- calculate the total value of the free items
- output the total value of the free items.

You **should** use meaningful variable name(s) and C# syntax in your answer.

The answer grid below contains vertical lines to help you indent your code.

[4 marks]

7

Turn over ►



Do not write
outside the
box

0 4

A programmer is developing a system to register users for an app. The program needs to validate the first name of the user.

0 4 . 1

Identify the purpose of validation.

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

- A Checks that the user is human ☐
- B Checks that the user is who they say they are ☐
- C Checks that the input is a name ☐
- D Checks that the input is reasonable ☐

0 4 . 2

Write a C# program to check the user's first name.

Your program should:

- get the user's first name
- check that the first name has more than one character and fewer than 15 characters:
 - o if it has, output the message Name accepted
 - o if it has not, output the message Name not accepted
- repeat until the name entered has a specified length.

You **should** use meaningful variable name(s) and C# syntax in your answer.

The answer grid below contains vertical lines to help you indent your code.

[6 marks]



0 4 . 3 Which of the following statements best describes **boundary** test data?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

- A** Data that is not of the allowed data type ☐
- B** Data that is at the limits of the allowed range ☐
- C** Data that is expected by the program ☐
- D** Data that will cause a syntax error ☐

0 4 . 4 The programmer has started planning the tests that will be used to check the program is working correctly.

The program should:

- check that the first name has more than one character and fewer than 15 characters:
 - o if it has, then output the message Name accepted
 - o if it has not, then output the message Name not accepted

The start of the test plan is shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3

Test number	Test data	Type of test data	Expected result
1	Thomas	Normal	Name accepted
2		Boundary	Name not accepted

State the number of characters that a string used for test number 2 in **Figure 3** could contain.

[1 mark]

0 4 . 5 Normal and boundary are two types of test data.

State **one** type of test data that has **not** been used in **Figure 3**.

[1 mark]



Question 4 continues on the next page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

Turn over ►



0 4 . 6 A programmer is designing an algorithm to generate usernames for users.

The algorithm should:

- ask the user to input their first name and their last name
- create a username:
 - o if their first name has more than three characters, their username will consist of the first three characters of their first name followed by their last name
 - o if their first name has three or fewer characters, their username will consist of their full first name followed by their last name
- output the username.

Figure 4 contains the statements required to implement a version of this algorithm.

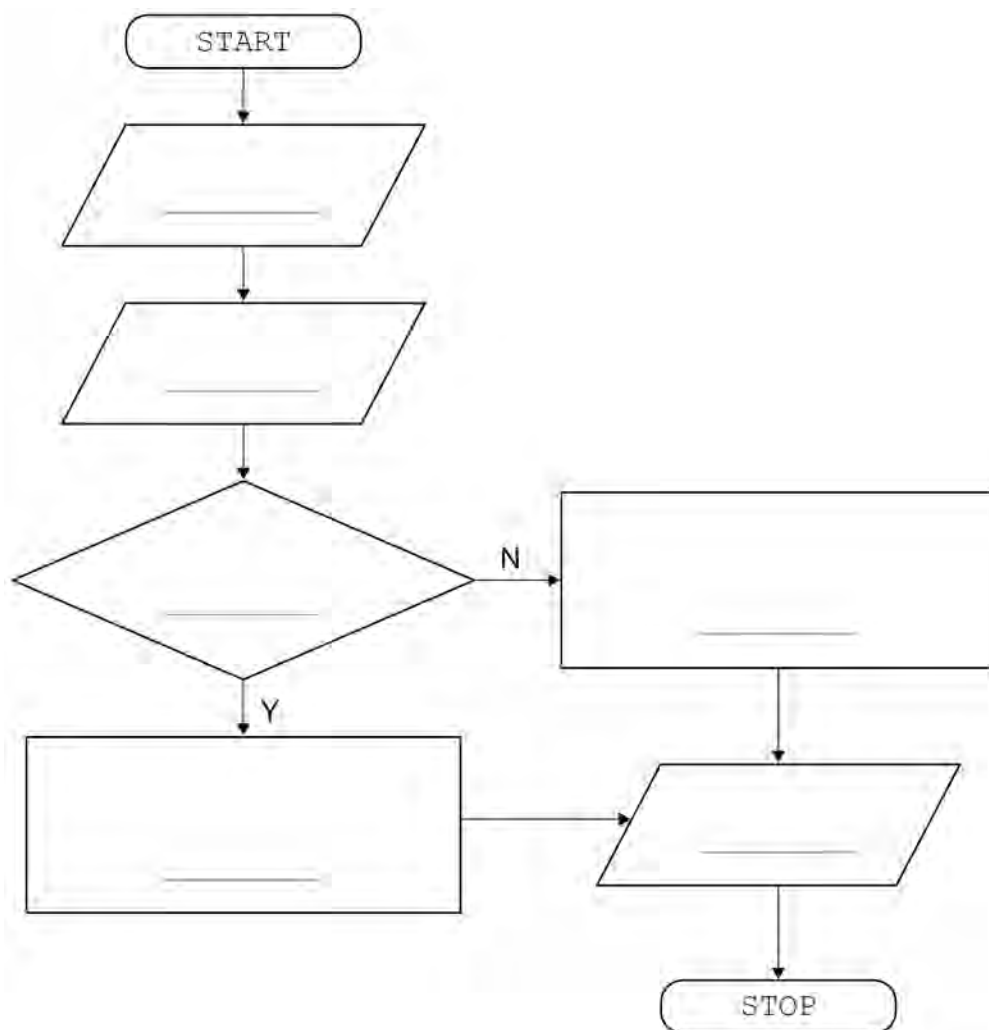
Figure 4

L1 firstName ← **USERINPUT**
L2 **LEN**(firstName) > 3
L3 username ← firstName + lastName
L4 **OUTPUT** username
L5 username ← **SUBSTRING**(0, 2, firstName) + lastName
L6 lastName ← **USERINPUT**

Using the labels (**L1** to **L6**) shown in **Figure 4**, complete the flowchart to implement the algorithm.

[3 marks]





Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



0 5

The C# program in **Figure 5** gets five numbers and outputs the sum of those numbers.

Figure 5

```
int num1 = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
int num2 = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
int num3 = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
int num4 = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
int num5 = Convert.ToInt32(Console.ReadLine());
int total = num1 + num2 + num3 + num4 + num5;
Console.WriteLine(total);
```

0 5 . 1

An integer data type is used in the program in **Figure 5**.

Describe what is meant by a **data type**.

[1 mark]

The variables num1, num2, num3, num4 and num5 in **Figure 5** have an integer data type.

0 5 . 2

Explain why these variables do **not** have a string data type.

[1 mark]

0 5 . 3

The program in **Figure 5** needs to be changed to use numbers with a fractional part (a real number).

State a data type in C# that should be used.

[1 mark]



0 6

A series of numbers shown in **Figure 6** are to be sorted into ascending order (from smallest to largest).

Figure 6

45	23	78	55	49
----	----	----	----	----

0 6 . 1

A bubble sort algorithm has been developed to sort the numbers in **Figure 6**.

Fill in the table to show the steps involved in applying a bubble sort algorithm to sort the numbers shown in **Figure 6**.

You should show the new order every time the order has changed.

[3 marks]

45	23	78	55	49
23	45	49	55	78

Do not write
outside the
box

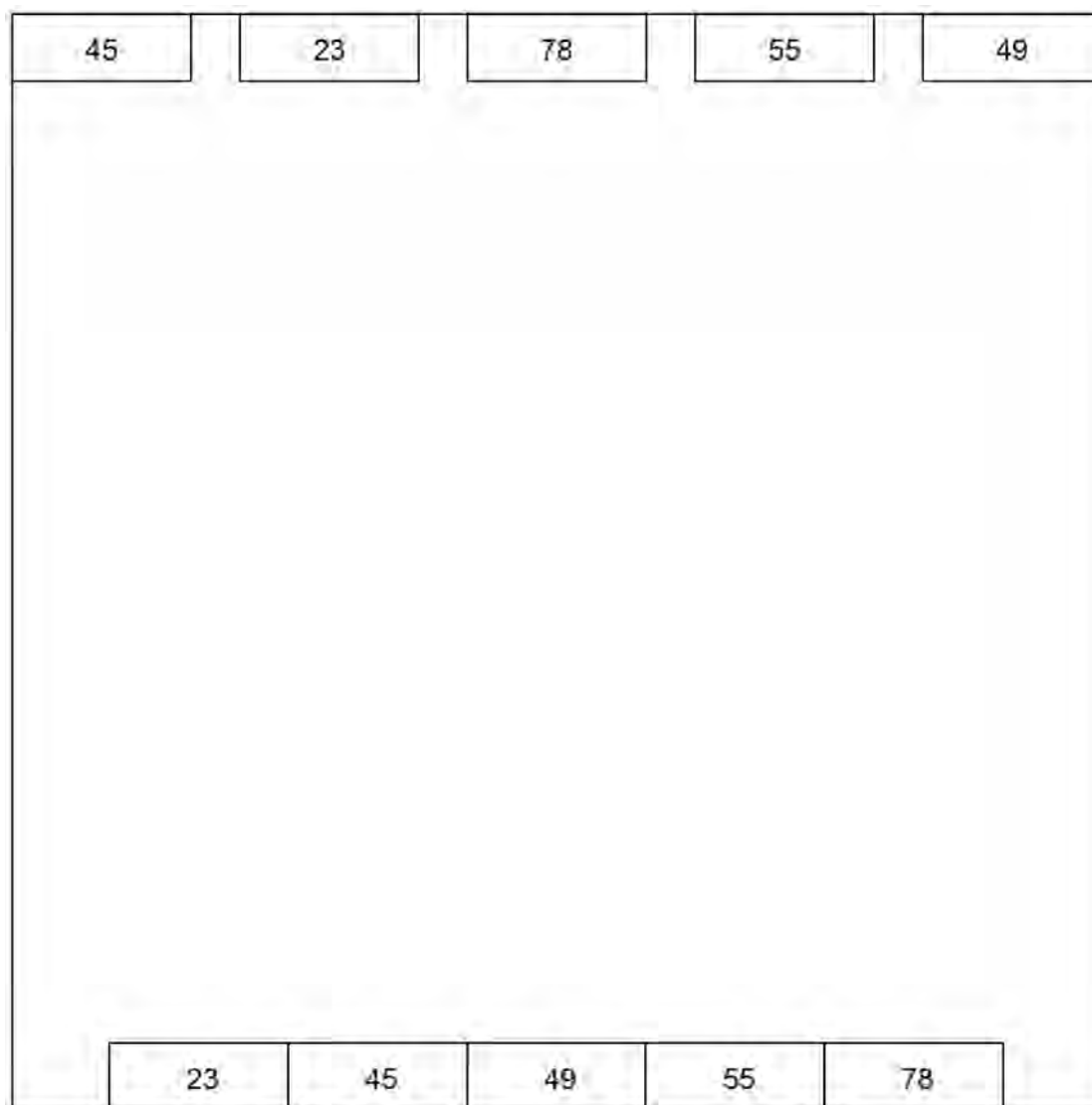


0 6 . 2

A programmer decides to use a merge sort algorithm to sort the same values shown in **Figure 6**.

Complete the diagram to show how the **merge** part of the merge sort algorithm is applied to **Figure 6**.

[3 marks]



Question 6 continues on the next page

Turn over ►



Do not write
outside the
box

0	6	.	3
---	---	---	---

State **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of a bubble sort compared to a merge sort.

[2 marks]

Advantage _____

Disadvantage _____

0	6	.	4
---	---	---	---

The programmer has an array of 2500 numbers, stored in ascending order (smallest to largest).

The programmer needs to write a program to search for a value in the array.

Explain why a binary search is better than a linear search for this array.

[2 marks]

10



Turn over for the next question

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

Turn over ►



07

Figure 7 shows a subroutine written in pseudo-code.

Figure 7

```

SUBROUTINE testSub(number)
  OUTPUT number
   $x \leftarrow \text{number MOD } 2$ 
  OUTPUT x
  IF  $x = 0$  THEN
    RETURN True
  ELSE
    RETURN False
  ENDIF
ENDSUBROUTINE

```

07.1

Describe the purpose of the subroutine in **Figure 7**.

[1 mark]

07.2

The subroutine in **Figure 7** is called using testSub(10)

Complete the table to show the values output.

[2 marks]

Program Code	Output
OUTPUT number	
OUTPUT x	

07.3

The subroutine in **Figure 7** is called using testSub(8)

State the value returned.

[1 mark]



Do not write
outside the
box

0 7 . 4 State the identifier for the parameter in **Figure 7**.

[1 mark]

0 7 . 5 State **two** characteristics of the structured approach to programming.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

Turn over for the next question

7

Turn over ►



0 8

Figure 8 shows an algorithm represented using pseudo-code.

- Line numbers are included but are not part of the algorithm.

Figure 8

```

1  b1 ← '0010'
2  b2 ← '0111'
3  new ← ''
4  FOR i ← 0 TO LEN(b1) - 1
5      IF b1[i] = '1' OR b2[i] = '1' THEN
6          IF NOT (b1[i] = '1' AND b2[i] = '1') THEN
7              new ← new + '1'
8          ELSE
9              new ← new + '0'
10         ENDIF
11     ELSE
12         new ← new + '0'
13     ENDIF
14 ENDFOR
15 OUTPUT new

```

0 8 . 1

Complete the trace table for the algorithm shown in **Figure 8**.

You may not need to use all the rows in the table.

[5 marks]

b1	b2	new	i



0	8	.	2
---	---	---	---

Explain why **line 4** in **Figure 8** uses $\text{LEN}(b1) - 1$ instead of $\text{LEN}(b1)$

[1 mark]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



0 9

Figure 9 shows five algorithms, represented using pseudo-code.

Do not write
outside the
box

Figure 9

A	<pre> numbers ← [44, 1, 2, 14, 68] counter ← 0 total ← 0 WHILE counter < 5 index ← counter total ← total + numbers[index] counter ← counter + 1 ENDWHILE OUTPUT total </pre>
B	<pre> numbers ← [44, 1, 2, 14, 68] total ← 0 FOR a ← 0 TO LEN(numbers) - 1 total ← total + numbers[a] ENDFOR OUTPUT total </pre>
C	<pre> numbers ← [44, 1, 2, 14, 68] total ← 0 FOR a ← 1 TO 7 total ← total + numbers[a] ENDFOR OUTPUT total </pre>
D	<pre> numbers ← [44, 1, 2, 14, 68] total ← 0 WHILE total > 0 total ← total + numbers[total] ENDWHILE OUTPUT total </pre>
E	<pre> numbers ← [44, 1, 2, 14, 68] total ← 0 x ← 1 REPEAT total ← total + numbers[x] UNTIL x = 5 OUTPUT total </pre>



The algorithms in **Figure 9** have been written to calculate the total of the five values in the array `number s`. Not all of the algorithms work.

Complete the table by ticking (✓) **one** box in **each** column (**A–E**).

[2 marks]

	Algorithm				
	A	B	C	D	E
Algorithm totals the five values					
Algorithm does not total the five values					

8

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



1 0

A programmer is writing an algorithm, using pseudo-code, to store the results of running events.

The programmer uses a record data structure.

Each record stores:

- the name of the running event
- the runner's number
- the time in seconds for that runner in that event.

Figure 10 shows the record structure.

Figure 10

```

RECORD Runner
    event : String
    runnerNumber : Integer
    time : Real
ENDRECORD
  
```

1 0 . 1

Figure 11 shows pseudo-code used to create two records using the structure in **Figure 10**.

Figure 11

```

race1 ← Runner('400 m', 23, 51.35)
race2 ← Runner('400 m', 14, 63.26)
  
```

Complete the line of pseudo-code to create a new record that contains the following data:

event	runnerNumber	time
200 m	10	32.59

[1 mark]

race3 ← _____

1 0 . 2

Complete the line of pseudo-code needed to output the time of race2

[1 mark]

OUTPUT race2 _____



1 0 . 3

The programmer wants to find the fastest time for a particular running event.

The times for all the runners in the event are stored in an array of real numbers called `times`

Write a C# program to find the fastest time.

Your program must:

- find the smallest value in the array (ie the fastest time)
- output the smallest value
- work with any size of array.

For example, if `times` contains 28.5, 26.3 and 30.0, the output should be 26.3

The program you write **must not** use any built-in routines to find the smallest value in an array or to sort the array into an order.

You do not need to write code to create the array `times`

You **should** use meaningful variable name(s) and C# syntax in your answer.

The answer grid below contains vertical lines to help you indent your code.

[6 marks]

Turn over ►



Turn over for the next question

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

Turn over ►



2 9

1 1

A word game is being developed using C#.

A word is displayed as a series of asterisks (*) equal to the number of letters in the word.

For example, the word apple would be displayed as *****

The player guesses one letter at a time. If the letter is in the word, the letter will replace the asterisk(s) wherever the letter occurs.

For example, if the player enters p then the word apple will be displayed as *pp**

Only lower-case letters are used in the word game.

Figure 12 shows a subroutine used in the program for this word game.

- Line numbers are included but are not part of the subroutine.

Figure 12

```

1 static string findLetter(string word,
                           string letter, string hidden) {
2     string newHidden = "";
3     for (int i = 0; i < word.Length; i++) {
4         if (word[i].ToString() == letter) {
5             newHidden = newHidden + letter;
6         }
7         else {
8             newHidden = newHidden + hidden[i];
9         }
10    }
11    return newHidden;
12}

```

Do not write
outside the
box



1 1 . 1 The subroutine call `findLetter("system", "s", "*y**em")` is made.

What is the value of the variable `letter` when **line 4** is first executed?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

A *y**em

☐

B s

☐

C sys**m

☐

D system

☐

1 1 . 2 The subroutine call `findLetter("system", "s", "*y**em")` is made.

What is the value of the variable `newHidden` when **line 7** is first executed?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

A s

☐

B sys

☐

C sys**m

☐

D system

☐

Question 11 continues on the next page

Turn over ►



Figure 12 has been included again below.

Figure 12

```

1 static string findLetter(string word,
                           string letter, string hidden) {
2     string newHidden = "";
3     for (int i = 0; i < word.Length; i++) {
4         if (word[i].ToString() == letter) {
5             newHidden = newHidden + letter;
6         }
7         else {
8             newHidden = newHidden + hidden[i];
9         }
10    }
11    return newHidden;
12}

```

1 1 . 3 The subroutine call `findLetter("system", "s", "*y**em")` is made.

Identify how many times the loop would iterate.

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | 1 | ☐ |
| B | 2 | ☐ |
| C | 6 | ☐ |
| D | 7 | ☐ |

1 1 . 4 The subroutine call `findLetter("system", "s", "*y**em")` is made.

What value is returned?

Shade **one** lozenge.

[1 mark]

- | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| A | s | ☐ |
| B | sy*tem | ☐ |
| C | sys*em | ☐ |
| D | system | ☐ |



Question 11 continues on the next page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

Turn over ►



1 1 . 5 A C# program is being written to determine if a player wins or loses the word game.

- The player wins if they correctly guess all of the letters in the word within eight guesses or fewer.
- The player loses if they have had eight guesses and there are still letters remaining that they have not guessed correctly.

Figure 13 shows the beginning of the program.

Figure 13

```
string word = Console.ReadLine();
string hidden = "";
for (int i = 0; i < word.Length; i++) {
    hidden = hidden + "*";
}
```

Extend the program in **Figure 13**.

Your program must:

- keep repeating the following until the user has had eight guesses or there are no asterisks left in hidden
 - o get the user to enter a letter
 - o call the `findLetter` subroutine (from **Figure 12**)
 - o update the value of `hidden` using the value returned from `findLetter`
 - o display the new value of `hidden`
- check if the new value of `hidden` contains any asterisks
 - o if there are any asterisks in `hidden` display the message `You lost`
 - o if there are no asterisks in `hidden` display the message `You won`

The program you write **must not** use any built-in routines to check if a string contains another string/character or to count the number of asterisks.

You **should** use meaningful variable name(s) and C# syntax in your answer.

The answer grid below contains vertical lines to help you indent your code.

[10 marks]

string word = Console.ReadLine();				
string hidden = "";				
for (int i = 0; i < word.Length; i++) {				
hidden = hidden + "*";				
}				



Do not write
outside the
box

Turn over ►



There are no questions printed on this page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**



Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.
	Copyright information For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk. Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team. Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

