



Cambridge International AS & A Level

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COMPUTER SCIENCE

9618/23

Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

October/November 2024

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) The following table contains pseudocode examples.

Each example may contain statements that relate to one or more of the following:

- selection
- iteration (repetition)
- subroutine (procedure or function).

Complete the table by placing **one or more** ticks ('✓') in each row.

Pseudocode example	Selection	Iteration	Subroutine
FOR Index ← 1 TO 3 IF Safe[Index] = TRUE THEN Flap[Index] ← 0 ENDIF NEXT Index			
CASE OF Compound(3)			
REPEAT UNTIL AllDone() = TRUE			
WHILE Result[3] <> FALSE			

[4]

(b) Complete the table by giving the appropriate data type in each case.

Variable	Example data value	Data type
Available	TRUE	
Received	"18/04/2021"	
Index	100	

[3]

(c) Evaluate each expression in the table by using the data values shown in part (b).

Write 'ERROR' if the expression contains an error.

Expression	Evaluates to
Available AND NOT(Index > 100)	
Index MOD 30	
NUM_TO_STR(Index + "33")	

[3]





- (a) Write pseudocode for the algorithm.

You must declare all variables used in the algorithm.

[5]

- Identify **one other** basic construct required by the algorithm **and** describe how it is used.

Construct

Use

[2]



- 3 The implementation of a linked list uses an integer variable and a 1D array `List` of type `Node`.

Record type `Node` is declared in pseudocode as follows:

```
TYPE Node
  DECLARE Data : STRING
  DECLARE Pointer : INTEGER
ENDTYPE
```

The array `List` is declared in pseudocode as follows:

```
DECLARE List : ARRAY[1:200] OF Node
```

The linked list will operate as follows:

- Integer variable `HeadPointer` will store the array index for the first node in the linked list.
- The `Pointer` field of a node contains the index value of the next array element (the next node) in the linked list.
- The value 0 is used as a null pointer.

- (a) (i) State why the value 0 has been selected as the null pointer.

.....
 [1]

- (ii) Give the range of valid values that could be assigned to variable `HeadPointer`.

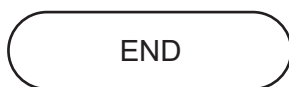
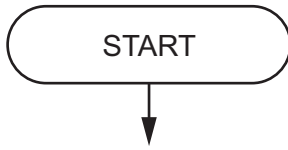
..... [1]





- (b) The array `List` will be initialised so that each node points to the following node. The last node will contain a null pointer.

Complete the program flowchart to represent the algorithm for this operation.



[4]





- (c) An algorithm outputs the `Data` field from all nodes in the array `List`. The order the `Data` is output should be the same order it is stored in the linked list.

Describe the algorithm in **four** steps.

Do **not** use pseudocode statements in your answer.

Step 1

.....

.....

Step 2

.....

.....

Step 3

.....

.....

Step 4

.....

.....

[4]





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- 4 An examination paper has a maximum of 75 marks. One of five pass grades (A to E) is assigned, depending on the mark obtained. The lowest mark for a given grade is known as the grade boundary.

A program is being written to process examination marks.

The five grade boundaries are stored in a global 1D array `GB` of type `INTEGER`, for example:

Index	Value	Comment
1	65	The minimum mark for an A grade.
2	57	The minimum mark for a B grade.
3	43	The minimum mark for a C grade.
4	35	The minimum mark for a D grade.
5	27	The minimum mark for an E grade.

Any paper that achieves a mark within 2 marks of a grade boundary must be checked. Using the given table, a paper with 45 marks would need to be checked.

- (a) The pseudocode algorithm to determine whether a paper should be checked is as shown. The mark for the paper is stored in variable `Mark`. Global variables `Mark`, `Index`, `Upper` and `Lower` are declared as integers.

Complete the pseudocode.

```

FOR Index ← 1 TO .....
    Lower ← GB[Index] - 2
    Upper ← .....
    IF Mark ..... AND Mark ..... THEN
        OUTPUT "Check this paper"
    ENDIF
NEXT Index
  
```

[4]

- (b) An alternative algorithm to determine if a paper needs to be checked uses a global 1D array `Check`, containing 76 elements of type `BOOLEAN`. The indices of the array are from 0 to 75 (inclusive), corresponding to the range of possible marks.

An element value in `Check` is `TRUE` if the index is within 2 marks of a grade boundary. For example, in the case where the C grade boundary is 43 the corresponding part of the `Check` array would be as follows:

Index	Value
40	FALSE
41	TRUE
42	TRUE
43	TRUE
44	TRUE
45	TRUE
46	FALSE

← The grade boundary for a C grade





- [2]

- [6]



- 5 A software developer follows a program development life cycle. The life cycle divides the development process into various stages.

(a) The following table lists some development activities.

Complete the table by writing the name of the life cycle stage for each activity.

Activity	Name of life cycle stage
A compiler is used.	
A program that has been released for general use is modified.	
The dry run method is used.	
The program structure is specified.	

[4]

- (b) A software developer has written modules `Test_A()` and `Test_B()`. These have been written but contain errors. These modules are called from several places in the main program and testing of the main program (integration testing) has to stop.

Identify a method that can be used to continue testing the main program **before** the errors in these modules have been corrected **and** describe how this would work.

Method

Description

.....

.....

.....

[3]





[7]



- 7 A coffee shop owner wants to introduce a computerised loyalty card system.

A programmer discusses the details of the system with the shop owner.

- (a) Identify the stage of the program development life cycle that this discussion is part of **and** give a document that will be produced during this stage.

Stage

Document

[2]

- (b) The shop will give each customer a loyalty card that displays a unique customer ID as a bar code. A customer will be able to present their card each time they make a purchase. The system will scan the bar code, calculate points, and add them to the customer's total. When the customer next makes a purchase and presents their card, they will have the option to exchange points for a discount.

The designer decides that this activity will be handled by a new module. Decomposition will be used to break the problem of designing the new module down into sub-problems (sub-modules).

Identify **four** sub-modules that could be used in the design of the new module **and** describe their use.

Sub-module 1

Use

Sub-module 2

Use

Sub-module 3

Use

Sub-module 4

Use

[4]





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- 8 A program is being developed to implement a game for up to six players.

During the game, each player assembles a team of characters. At the start of the game there are 45 characters available.

Each character has four attributes, as follows:

Attribute	Examples	Comment
Player	0, 1, 3	The player the character is assigned to.
Role	Builder, Teacher, Doctor	The job that the character will perform in the game.
Name	Bill, Lee, Farah, Mo	The name of the character. Several characters may perform the same role, but they will each have a unique name.
Skill level	14, 23, 76	An integer in the range 0 to 100, inclusive.

The programmer has defined a record type to define each character. The record type definition is shown in pseudocode as follows:

```

TYPE CharacterType
    DECLARE Player : INTEGER
    DECLARE Role : STRING
    DECLARE Name : STRING
    DECLARE SkillLevel : INTEGER
ENDTYPE

```

The `Player` field indicates the player to which the character is assigned (1 to 6). This field value is 0 if the character is **not** assigned to any player.

The programmer has defined a global array to store the character data, as follows:

```

DECLARE Character : ARRAY[1:45] OF CharacterType

```

At the start of the game all record fields are initialised, and all `Player` fields are set to 0

The programmer has defined a program module as follows:

Module	Description
<code>Count()</code>	- called with two parameters: - an integer representing a player - a string representing a character role - searches the <code>Character</code> array for characters with the given role that are assigned to the given player - counts the number of assigned characters and sums their total skill level - outputs the result of the search if characters with the given role are found, for example: <pre>"Player 3 has 4 characters with the role of Teacher and the total skill level is 65"</pre> - if no characters with the given role are found, outputs: <pre>"No characters with that role are assigned to this player"</pre>



[illegible]

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You must use the module `Extract()`.

[illegible]



.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [7]

- (c) The game can last for several days and users often find that they have to close and rerun the game program many times in order to complete it.

Describe the benefit of using the file `SaveFile.txt` as described in part (b).

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]







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