

2000 HSC Notes from the Examination Centre Computing Studies

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Computing Studies

2 Unit (General)

This examination paper consisted of:

Section I – 20 multiple-choice questions examining all five core topics. Each question is allocated a mark value of one.

Section II – five questions, each on one of the five core topics. Each question usually consists of three parts, with each part being made up of a combination of single word responses, stimulus material interpretation and short answer responses. Integration of the five core topics is also examined in this section.

Section I – Multiple Choice (20 marks)

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
1	D	92
2	B	46
3	D	65
4	C	34
5	A	51
6	B	44
7	A	58
8	C	57
9	D	63
10	A	57

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
11	B	55
12	D	53
13	C	79
14	A	76
15	A	54
16	D	40
17	B	76
18	C	30
19	B	54
20	A	61

Section II – Core Free-response Answers (80 marks)

Candidates experienced some difficulty with the wording of questions, particularly where the terminology used was different to that used in previous HSC examinations. Where candidates knew definitions, often, they were unable to apply concepts in the context of the question. Some candidates also had difficulty with distinguishing between terms that had slightly different meanings, for example titling/caption and acknowledgment/negative acknowledgment. Once again the generalised responses of 'quicker' and 'faster' were offered as answers to a whole array of questions in this paper.

2/3 Unit (Common)

The paper consisted of:

Section I: Core

Part A

20 multiple-choice questions examining the entire core. Each question is allocated one mark.

Part B

Two questions - one on each of the core topics. Each question having a mark value of ten.

Section II: Options

Seven questions, each on one of the option topics from which each candidate had to answer three. Each question has a maximum mark allocation of 20 marks with only three options counted.

Section I – Core

Part A – Multiple Choice (20 marks)

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
1	C	46
2	A	63
3	A	36
4	B	56
5	B	14
6	B	52
7	D	59
8	B	82
9	D	84
10	C	67

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
11	A	66
12	A	48
13	D	47
14	C	78
15	D	46
16	D	74
17	B	74
18	A	52
19	C	57
20	B	60

Part B – Short Answer-Response (20 marks)

This part was reasonably well answered, although many candidates had difficulty when it came to applying specific and detailed knowledge, for example of system flowcharts. A significant number of candidates had difficulty with basic concepts such as the stages of the systems development cycle, incrementing loops, and the

distinction between systems and software. Candidates also experienced difficulty in applying analytical skills in assessing consequences of errors in algorithms. The question on system flowcharts was poorly answered.

Section II – Options (60 marks)

Candidates were generally able to recall definitions of terms and were able to describe and give examples illustrating a term. However, many had problems with interpreting and applying concepts. The more open nature of some of the questions encouraged candidates to give fairly general and non-specific responses, with many candidates resorting to defining terms they thought were relevant but did not relate their responses back to the specifics of the question.

Those questions, which required candidates to identify shortcomings, or explain why or how, caused particular difficulties, with candidates reverting to giving definitions of terms they recognised in the question.

3 Unit (Additional)

The 3 Unit Additional Examination consisted of:

Section I – 20 multiple-choice questions worth one mark each.

Section II – two compulsory questions worth 15 marks each.

Section I – Multiple-Choice (20 marks)

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
1	D	34
2	C	58
3	A	73
4	D	34
5	B	23
6	A	92
7	B	68
8	D	35
9	D	46
10	C	52

Question	Correct Response	% Correct
11	C	68
12	B	38
13	A	46
14	B	66
15	D	58
16	B	49
17	A	53
18	C	83
19	B	21
20	C	53

Section II – Free Response Answers (30 marks)

The questions in this section were generally well answered. The major shortcoming was in candidates failing to justify answers when required to do so. Candidates also gave responses to more open-ended questions that were too general. Candidates should be aware that 'open-ended' questions still require specific and detailed responses.

A significant number of candidates had particular difficulties in representing algorithms for event-driven situations.