



# Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Information  
and Communication Technology (4IT1)  
Paper 01R

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## **1906 GQ**

### **Paper Introduction**

This is the first time that candidates have sat examinations for this unit, which requires them to explore how current and emerging digital technologies impact on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. This is an untiered paper that has been specifically designed so that easier questions are more prevalent earlier in the paper, becoming progressively more difficult later on. This paper has been designed to be accessible, so that candidates of all ability ranges will find questions that are both challenging and interesting throughout. Candidates will find that 'command words' are used consistently in the paper to indicate the type of response expected. It is hoped that candidates will demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be confident users of ICT.

Successful candidates often provided more detailed responses, providing more than just simple statements, including examples and reasons where expansions or explanations were required.

In the extended questions, candidates must demonstrate a better understanding of the requirement to 'discuss' and should note that a conclusion is not always required.

Candidates should develop their use of subject specific language and avoid giving generic responses, responding in the context of the question.

## **4IT1\_01R\_Q01a**

### **Question Introduction**

Most candidates gained the first mark, but few gained the second mark, with many repeating the question and stating that the phone turned off. Some responses failed to gain a mark as they referred to the movement dislodging the battery or moving other components within the smartphone.

### **Examiner Comment**

The first mark was awarded for reference to a sensor. (The fact that it is unlikely to be a pressure sensor was ignored.)

There is enough in the rest of the response to suggest that a process occurs, so the second mark was also awarded.

## Clip Instruction

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box . If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box  and then mark your new answer with a cross .



(Source: © Pearson Asset Library)

1 Kiki buys a smartphone.

(a) The smartphone turns itself off when it is dropped.

Describe how the smartphone does this.

(2)  
The smartphone has a pressure sensor ~~but~~ built into the phone. Therefore, when it hits the ground, the sensor ~~sends~~ sends a signal to the phone's processor informing it that there was a large pressure on the phone. The processor then sends a signal to turn off the phone.



#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q01bi

##### Question Introduction

Responses were often vague referring to limited range, rather than lack of mobility. Reference to trip hazards was a common source of marks, although many candidates referred to mess, which was not enough.

##### Examiner Comment

Marks gained from mark point 3 and mark point 1.

##### Clip Instruction

(b) Smartphones can be connected using wired or wireless methods.

(i) Give **two** disadvantages to Kiki of using a **wired** method to connect to the smartphone. (2)

1 More expensive to set up wired connections due to requirements of wires.

2 May be difficult for kiki to move locations as its less portable.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q01bii

##### Question Introduction

Many candidates' responses were limited to mark points 1-5. Marks were commonly awarded for responses relating to 'slower', 'lower bandwidth' and 'less secure'.

##### Examiner Comment

Two marks awarded from mark point 5 and mark point 1 respectively.

##### Clip Instruction

(ii) Give **two** disadvantages to Kiki of using a **wireless** method to connect to the smartphone. (2)

1 It can easily be intercepted by unauthorised access.

2 Wireless connections are slower than wired connections.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q01d

### Question Introduction

Many candidates failed to gain marks as they used 'design' instead of 'features'/'functionality'. Many responses referred incorrectly to multi-functionality and others to size and portability.

### Examiner Comment

In this response 'adopts many features' is not enough by itself, but the example helps gain the mark.

### Examiner Tip

It is often useful to provide an example, where appropriate.

### Clip Instruction

(d) The smartphone is an example of a converged device.

State what is meant by the term 'convergence'.

(1)

Convergence is a device which adapts many features  
ex: a phone plus tablet can be a phablet.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q01e

##### Question Introduction

Many responses gained both marks.

##### Examiner Comment

The first mark was awarded for the mention of 'cycle', but 'per second' is not mentioned for the second mark.

##### Clip Instruction

(e) The smartphone has a 4 GHz CPU.  
Describe how the speed of the processor is measured. (2)

The speed of the processor is measured in giga hertz which is the time a device takes to process data. ~~This~~ The speed of the processor depends on the clock cycle which is 2.3 GHz per cycle.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q01f

##### Question Introduction

Many responses gained both marks for mentioning defragmentation and compression.

##### Examiner Comment

The first part of the response gains the mark from mark point 7.

The second part of the response would not have been enough to gain a mark from mark point 7.

##### Clip Instruction

(f) The smartphone uses utility software.  
State **two** uses for utility software. (2)

1. Downloading drivers necessary for the devices
2. keeping drivers up to date on the device.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q01g

### Question Introduction

Many gained a mark for 'limited storage', but did not expand with 'more expensive'.

### Examiner Comment

The first mark is gained for 'very expensi[v]e', but no mark is awarded for the part of the response relating to manufacturing.

### Clip Instruction

(g) Explain **one** drawback of using solid state storage.

(2)

they are very expensive to buy as It  
is harder to make and manufattur



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q01i

### Question Introduction

Diagrams were not well labeled. Few candidates showed a transmitter from the broadcaster or labeled the types of connectivity.

Many responses related to satellite television rather than broadcast television.

### Examiner Comment

The fourth mark was not awarded, as no connectivity was labelled for the connection between the antenna and the television.

### Clip Instruction

(i) Kiki watches broadcast television.

Draw a diagram to show how Kiki's television can receive a television broadcast.

Label each component and the connectivity you use in your diagram.

(4)



#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q01j

#### Question Introduction

Many responses did not mention electromagnetic signals. Common incorrect responses related to data traveling long distances or objects.

Marks were often gained for mention of a reduction in video and audio quality.

#### Examiner Comment

Many responses, such as this one, repeated the Q.

The reference to the quality of the screen display was not enough for a mark from mark point 3.

#### Clip Instruction

(j) Describe how interference could affect Kiki's experience of watching broadcast television. (2)

Interference  
~~Interface~~ Interferes when a device <sup>/signal</sup> interferes  
so it would affect the signal of the TV  
so affects the broadcast and the quality of the  
screen display

(Total for Question 1 = 21 marks)

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q02a

### Question Introduction

Marks were often gained for stating connecting a LAN to a WAN. Candidates who stated connect 'two networks' often did not state 'two **types** of networks'.

### Examiner Comment

Two clear marks, as the response refers to 'connecting two types of networks'.

### Clip Instruction

2 Zara uses her tablet computer to watch TV online.

(a) Describe the function of a gateway.

(2)

A gateway is used to connect two types of networks together. Gateway can <sup>also</sup> be used to connect networks to the Internet.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q02b

### Question Introduction

Many responses were limited to one mark for reference to 'buffer'.

Many did not state 'requires Internet connection'.

### Examiner Comment

- 1) Not relevant
- 2) Not enough to gain a mark for reference to interference.

### Clip Instruction

(b) State **two** drawbacks to Zara of watching online TV.

(2)

1 There can be many advertisements. She can face adware.

2 Online TV might get disrupted due to bad weather weather conditions.

**Question Introduction**

Many responses related to generic points on how this page is a risk. Some responses referred to how the ways in which people behave Online can lead to cyberbullying, hacking, and other unacceptable activities.

Many candidates' responses referred to the fact that it is a phishing site.

Candidates discussed that it does not have padlock or 'https', thus it is not a secure site and will use the information for fraudulent purposes by criminals to take her bank details etc.

**Examiner Comment**

A typical response that gained two marks.

**Clip Instruction**

(c) Zara sees the page shown in Figure 1.

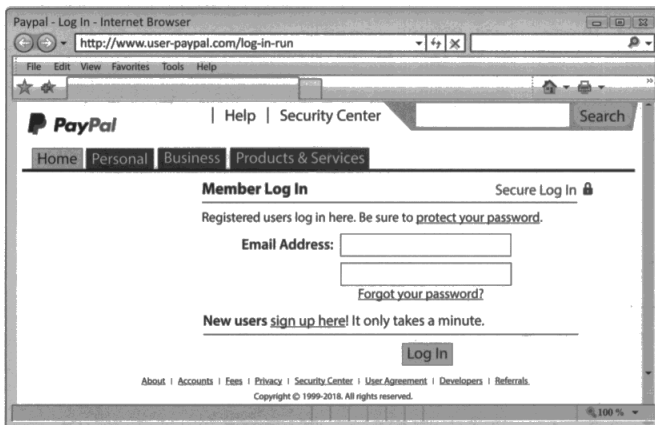


Figure 1

Describe how this page is a risk to Zara.

(4)

The site ~~is~~ has not enough encryption as the address should be "https" instead of "http" because it is a bank page. The log in is not secured.



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q02d

### Question Introduction

Many candidates did not use the correct technical terminology such as 'lag'. Answers often included vague reference to connectivity issues, interference and quality of the image because of a larger screen. Bandwidth was sometimes mentioned but related simply to the tablet or television and not other devices on the network. Answers relating to the spread of viruses and hackers were common incorrect responses.

### Examiner Comment

Reference to 'interference' was not enough to award the mark for 'lag'.

### Clip Instruction

(d) Give **two** drawbacks to Zara of connecting her tablet computer to her television.

(2)

1 Both of those devices need to be compatible with each other.

2 There could be interference if her tablet computer is in another room.

4IT1\_01R\_Q02e

**Question Introduction**

Responses typically gained two marks. Candidates who failed to gain marks usually described what a PIN was rather than how it works.

**Examiner Comment**

The first mark was given as we can infer the PIN is stored (in the database)

The second mark was given as 'matches' implies comparison.

The third mark was given as the outcome of the comparison is in the response.

**Clip Instruction**

(e) Zara uses a PIN to unlock her tablet computer.  
Describe how a PIN system works. (3)

The user enters the PIN personal identification number. The tablets OS will run the PIN against its database which contains the correct PIN. If the value is wrong the entry is denied and if it matches the entry is granted.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q02f

### Question Introduction

Responses were often limited to 'internet connection is needed' and did not provide the expansion 'as it is stored on the cloud' for the second mark.

Some candidates did mention the effect of bandwidth or the reduced features.

### Examiner Comment

A common misconception.

### Examiner Tip

Provide reasons for responses to 'explain' questions.

### Clip Instruction

(f) Explain **one** disadvantage of using hosted applications.

(2)

~~it slow~~ using hosted applications are much more slower apps  
rather than others.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q02g

### Question Introduction

Responses often gained one mark, failing to get a second, linked mark. Many answers referred to storage space but often did not provide an expansion that explains that this limits the space available for other applications / files.

### Examiner Comment

The first mark was awarded for 'not updated' and the second for 'unless user does it'.

### Clip Instruction

(g) Explain **one** disadvantage of using locally installed applications.

(2)

It is usually not updated and very old version. In order for the user to use them they need to update the app where it will take storage and the tablet will have less storage for anything else.

(Total for Question 2 = 17 marks)



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q03bi

### Question Introduction

When responses gained a mark for reference to line of sight, they rarely went on to expand and provide a linked point referencing moving when exercising. Candidates should ensure they provide an expansion to these types of open questions.

### Examiner Comment

This response gains both marks as it applies knowledge to the context of the question.

### Clip Instruction

(b) The health monitor uses Wi-Fi Direct to transfer data to the smartwatch.

- (i) Speed is not a concern. Explain why Wi-Fi Direct is a better choice than infrared for this transfer.

(2)

As the object is in movement, infrared ~~might~~ connection needs to be stable and pointed in one direction towards a sensor. Wi-Fi Direct is a better choice as it can be used while <sup>moving.</sup> ~~movement~~.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q03bii

#### Question Introduction

Very few marks were gained from this question. The majority of responses that did not gain marks stated that the distance is further, so the transfer takes longer.

#### Examiner Comment

Both marks awarded, for: 'signal weaker' and 'waves spread out'.

#### Clip Instruction

(ii) Explain why distance might affect the speed of the transfer. (2)

As far <sup>wireless</sup> As the access point, the signal become ~~weaker~~ weaker because the wave are spread ~~the~~ wider when it goes far.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q03c

### Question Introduction

Most responses gained marks for mention of preventing unauthorised access to data. Some responses simply repeated the question using encryption and decryption without explanation.

### Examiner Comment

In this response, 'converting it to a coded form' was awarded the first mark and the second mark was awarded for 'interceptor will not be able to understand'.

### Clip Instruction

(c) Some data is encrypted.  
Describe the purpose of encryption. (2)

Encryption protects the data being transferred by converting it into a coded form. Even if ~~the~~ the data is intercepted when being transferred the interceptor will not be able to understand the information.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q03d

#### Question Introduction

Many responses failed to gain marks as they implied that the signal was sent to the satellite and bounced back. Some candidates simply stated "using a satellite" but no indication of the signal, others wrote about receiving "information" from the satellite and in these cases it was apparent that it was more than just a signal.

#### Examiner Comment

This response gains both marks. The expansion about calculating 'a quick route' would not have been rewardable by itself.

#### Clip Instruction

(d) Ruwan's smartwatch uses GPS.

Describe how GPS works.

(2)

A GPS receives signals from a satellite and navigation aids take advantage of the GPS signals to calculate the exact location of the driver and can be used to find a quick route to get to a place.

#### 4IT1\_01R\_Q03e

#### Question Introduction

Some responses related to sat navs rather than GPS. In general, answers were a little vague.

#### Examiner Comment

Two valid responses.

#### Clip Instruction

(e) Some social networking services use GPS data.

Give **two** positive ways in which social network services use GPS data.

(2)

1 They can be used to give real-time locations of friends

2 They can be used to find people who are in ~~distress~~  
need of assistance and give this information to the police

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q03f

### Question Introduction

The majority of candidates gained marks for 1024, 8 or both and many gained all three marks, often for a correct result of the calculation, rather than the complete expression.

### Examiner Comment

The first mark was awarded as we have sight of 8.

The second mark was awarded as we have sight of 1024.

There is a complete expression:  $3072 = (3 \times 1024)$ , and  $\times 8$  is there, so we have a complete equivalent expression. Therefore all three marks were awarded.

**Please note:** 1000 was accepted for 1024 in this series. However, this will **not** be the case in future series.

### Clip Instruction

(f) The health monitor stores 3 KiB of data.  
Construct an expression to show how many bits are in 3 KiB. (3)

8 bits = 1 byte  
1024 byte = 1 kilobyte  
1024 Kb = 1 megabyte  
1024 megabyte = 1 gigabyte  
1024 gigabyte = 1 terabyte

$1024 \times 3 = 3072$  byte  
 $3072 \times 8 =$  number of bits bits in 3 KiB

$4 \times 8 = 32$   
 $20 \times 8 = 160$   
 $1000 \times 8 = 8000$   
 $+ 8192$

**Question Introduction**

Candidates usually gained at least one or two marks for reference to purchase history and/or saved payment details but few managed to gain the linked marks.

**Examiner Comment**

Two marks were awarded.

One mark was awardable from the first part of the response, but both marks were awardable from the second, which also mentions use during checkout.

**Clip Instruction**

(g) Ruwan purchased his smartwatch online.  
Describe **two** ways in which transactional data could be used during a purchase. (4)

1 transactional data can be used to allow a easier check out as the information is saved

2 transactional data could be also used to allow the customer sizes be saved allowing for a faster checkout

(Total for Question 3 = 18 marks)



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q04ai

### Question Introduction

Many responses used 'relevant' to explain relevance (and so could not be awarded a mark). Many misunderstood 'age' as the age of competitors, rather than the information and many used 'reliable' to explain reliability.

### Examiner Comment

- 1) 'related to purpose' gained a mark.
- 2) 'not outdated' gained a mark.
- 3) credible/accurate/trustworthy was not enough to be awarded a mark and 'reliable' is in the question.

### Clip Instruction

4 Ruwan searches online for local sporting events.

(a) Ruwan evaluates the fitness for purpose of the search results.

(i) Complete this table to show how each property can **positively** affect the fitness for purpose of information.

(3)

Property	Positive effect
Relevance	Shows information that is useful and relates to the purpose of the search.
Age	Shows information that is valid and not outdated.
Reliability	Checks whether the information obtained can be trusted and is reliable so the data is more accurate and credible.



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q04b

### Question Introduction

Many of candidates gained two marks for referring to keywords being compared to give results, but failed to gain the other linked points.

### Examiner Comment

Keywords (1) are compared (1) with the content (1) of URLs held in a database (1).

Returns the results having the closest match would have also gained a mark if we had not already awarded four(!)

### Clip Instruction

(b) Describe how a search engine works. (4)

A user enters keywords into the search engine that describes the information they are looking for (sometimes with search syntax ~~and~~ help). The search engine then compares the keywords with the content and URLs of the webpages in its database and then returns the results having the closest match. Users may also use search types or search tools to refine their searches. Some search engines also autofill for the user in the address bar or give suggested

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q04d

### Question Introduction

Marks were usually awarded for reference to a database / blacklist / white list, while many candidates incorrectly described a web filter, which is commonly, colloquially and incorrectly referred to as a firewall.

### Examiner Comment

The first mark was awarded for reference to 'IP address', the second for this being compare(d) and the third for reference to what the comparison is made against (a list of rules [whitelist]).

### Clip Instruction

(d) Describe how a firewall can be used to restrict access to a network.

(3)

Firewalls control the data travelling into and out of a network. They examine the IP addresses and ports of the data. They then compare these to a list of rules. These rules determine whether the data can be allowed to go in or out of a network. This is how firewalls restrict access to a network.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q04e

Most responses were limited to the impact on individuals, rather than society. Many responses made more than one point.

Common points were that 'communication will be easier around the world as people can use social media', 'information can be shared easily due to the Internet'. Many candidates' responses discussed that cyberbullying and hacking has increased due to less restricted access to network, although this was a tentative link to the requirement of the question.

### Examiner Comment

This response makes a number of points, but they are general and, in the case of some of the positives (sharing resources) and the negatives in particular, these are not related to the topic of less-restricted access to networks. There is little relevance to society.

This meets Level 1 descriptor but does a little more, given the number of points that are attempted.

Four marks were awarded on a 'best fit' basis.

### Clip Instruction


(e) Discuss how having less-restricted access to networks has impacted upon society. (8)

There are both positive and negative impact  
-s of less-restricted access to the <sup>networks.</sup> ~~internet.~~

First, the benefits. More open access to  
the ~~internet~~ <sup>to networks</sup> has allowed people  
to gain more information based on different subj  
ects as information and ideas get inter-connect  
inter-connected on a network. The less-restricted  
access has also created a freedom of speech  
as people can clearly describe their opinions  
on the subjects as they are free with lack  
of regulations. This access to networks also allo  
-ws the users to share resources and ~~it~~  
transfer other files and documents through  
the inter-connection.

On the other hand, the less restricted  
access can also create an issue on the data  
security as unauthorised access can occur allowin  
-g users to collect information about other  
-s unless encryption is enabled. There can also  
be thefts of each others data unless network  
administrators take actions to prevent this.  
Hacking is another danger of the ~~less-restrict~~  
less-restricted access to data and information  
'as account can be hacked through the fact

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P 6 1 9 9 6 A 0 1 4 2 0

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q05a

### Question Introduction

Many responses did not gain marks as the common answer was a colloquialism relating to 'large geographical area'. Many said used by large organisation or spread over multiple cities, which was also not rewardable.

### Examiner Comment

This response gained the mark as it relates to 'a network of networks'.

### Clip Instruction

5 James teaches in a school that uses a local area network and a wide area network.

(a) State what is meant by the term 'wide area network'.

(1)

Wide area network link the local area network to another in  
between a very big range. ~~##~~ Allows ~~##~~ that two network commuicate.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q05b

### Question Introduction

Once again, candidates often failed to gain marks as they did not provide linked responses.

Many candidates gained marks for an accessibility need and some linked this to a configuration. Few candidates went on to gain three or four marks.

### Examiner Comment

Refer to the additional guidance section in the mark scheme for a rationale for how marks were awarded for this question.

The first mark was awarded for reference to how a microphone could be used instead of keyboard. The second mark was awarded for linking this to how some people cannot move their hands and a further, third mark, for how the microphone allows for dictation. Finally, the fourth mark is awarded for linking to the fact that this is achieved by the user only needing to move their mouth (instead of typing).

### Clip Instruction

(b) Some learners have accessibility needs.

Describe **one** way that ICT systems can be configured to support learners with accessibility needs.

(4)

~~Use~~ a microphone instead of keyboard for the people that cannot move their hands. the microphone will allow the computers to use Dictation ~~instead~~ ~~in~~ instead of typing the password. This is easier as they only need to move their mouth.

4IT1\_01R\_Q05c

**Question Introduction**

Many candidates confused roaming profile with the ability to monitor students online. Many others referred to teachers able to work remotely e.g. at home. Some candidates referred to roaming on mobile phone networks.

**Examiner Comment**

The mark was awarded for reference to teachers moving from class to class. The expansion does not provide enough rationale to gain marks. 'Planning from anywhere' was too vague to gain marks.

**Clip Instruction**

(c) Explain why roaming profiles could benefit teachers.

(4)  
If a teacher is moving from class to class roaming profiles would ensure that they don't lose ~~can~~ network connection. Also they can plan their ~~tes~~ lessons from anywhere.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q05e

### Question Introduction

Responses often showed understanding that the victim will not know the person bullying them, thus they cannot report them or tell anyone to stop it happening. Many responses did not gain the third mark, as they did not mention how the victim could be impacted.

### Examiner Comment

The first mark was awarded for reference to the fact that this makes the effect worse.

The second mark was awarded for reference to not knowing who the offender is.

The third mark was awarded for reference to how this means that the victim cannot report it.

### Clip Instruction

(e) Describe how the victims of cyber-bullying are affected by the anonymity of offenders.

(3)

When another ~~account~~ an anonymous account is used for  
cyberbullying it makes the effect on the victim even worse. This is  
because the victim does not know who is responsible and will not  
have a ~~method~~ method to report the cyber crime to an adult  
or company which may lead to ~~ss~~ things such as suicide for the  
victim.

## 4IT1\_01R\_Q05f

### Question Introduction

There were many one-word answers, such as 'presentation'. Simplistic responses relating to carrying out calculations using a spreadsheet appeared quite often, but were not rewardable.

### Examiner Comment

Two valid responses gaining marks from mark point 9 and mark point 6.

### Clip Instruction

(f) The learners use office productivity tools.

Give **two** examples of tasks that could be completed using office productivity tools.

(2)

1 Maintaining and completing assignments/projects.

2 Create logos...



## 4IT1\_01R\_Q05g

### **Question Introduction**

Many responses included a generic discussion on Wikipedia. Many responses mentioned simply that it is good as a source of information for students to help them complete their homework, but did not go beyond this to refer to how wikis can help with learning. Some responses mentioned that it is not reliable as it is editable by anyone.

### **Examiner Comment**

'Wikis that are edited ... multiple editors' is relate to how wikis have changed our understanding of experts (this point could be phrased either positively or negatively).

'Proofchecked' is a valid point (although not the correct terminology).

The comment about to reference/add sources is valid but it is not related to the impact on learning. It's mentioned as a feature.

Internet connection...digital divide - these are irrelevant points.

'Collaborating' is valid and related to impact on learning.

There are some negatives including the statement about anyone can edit so the information not being accurate.

The refernece to plagiarism is not directly relevant to the scenario.

This meets the descriptor for level 2 and creeps into level 3. Therefore, six marks were awarded.

## Examiner Tip

Responses to 'Discuss' questions do not require a conclusion.

## Clip Instruction

(g) Discuss the impact of wikis on learning.

(8)

wikis are online websites which are edited by groups of editors.

Wikis have benefitted learning by providing a lot of information and resources on many topics educational topics. They can be very detailed and often contain links to other pages of relevant information. They are edited by many people which means the expertise and experience of multiple editors. They are proofchecked by them and unlikely to be wrong. They contain references to sources of information and can be traced back by the learner to gain better understanding from the original source of information. They only require an internet connection to be accessed and on this benefits learners where education may not be good and gives way for independent learning. This helps to shorten the digital divide. Learners may gain knowledge by writing their own wikis and collaborating with other editors.

wikis have also negatively impacted learners through the use as anyone can edit a wiki. Not all information is accurate. Some have been vandalised by other editors. Some learners depend too much on wikis and don't refer to other sources to check. Other learners plagiarise the work on wikis and use it for homeworks and projects as their own.

18



P 6 1 9 9 6 A 0 1 8 2 0

(Total for Question 5 = 23 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS

19



P 6 1 9 9 6 A 0 1 9 2 0

## **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Develop the good practice of expanding and explaining answers using examples and reasons, where more than a simple statement or list is required
- Respond with the context of the question in mind
- Do not repeat responses when more than one example/reason is required
- Identify key words and command words in the question to ensure responses reflect what the question asks
- When required to give one other example/reason, ensure the response is discrete from the given example/reason
- Practise a range of extended questions, not just balanced arguments
- Allocate time to plan responses to the extended questions

