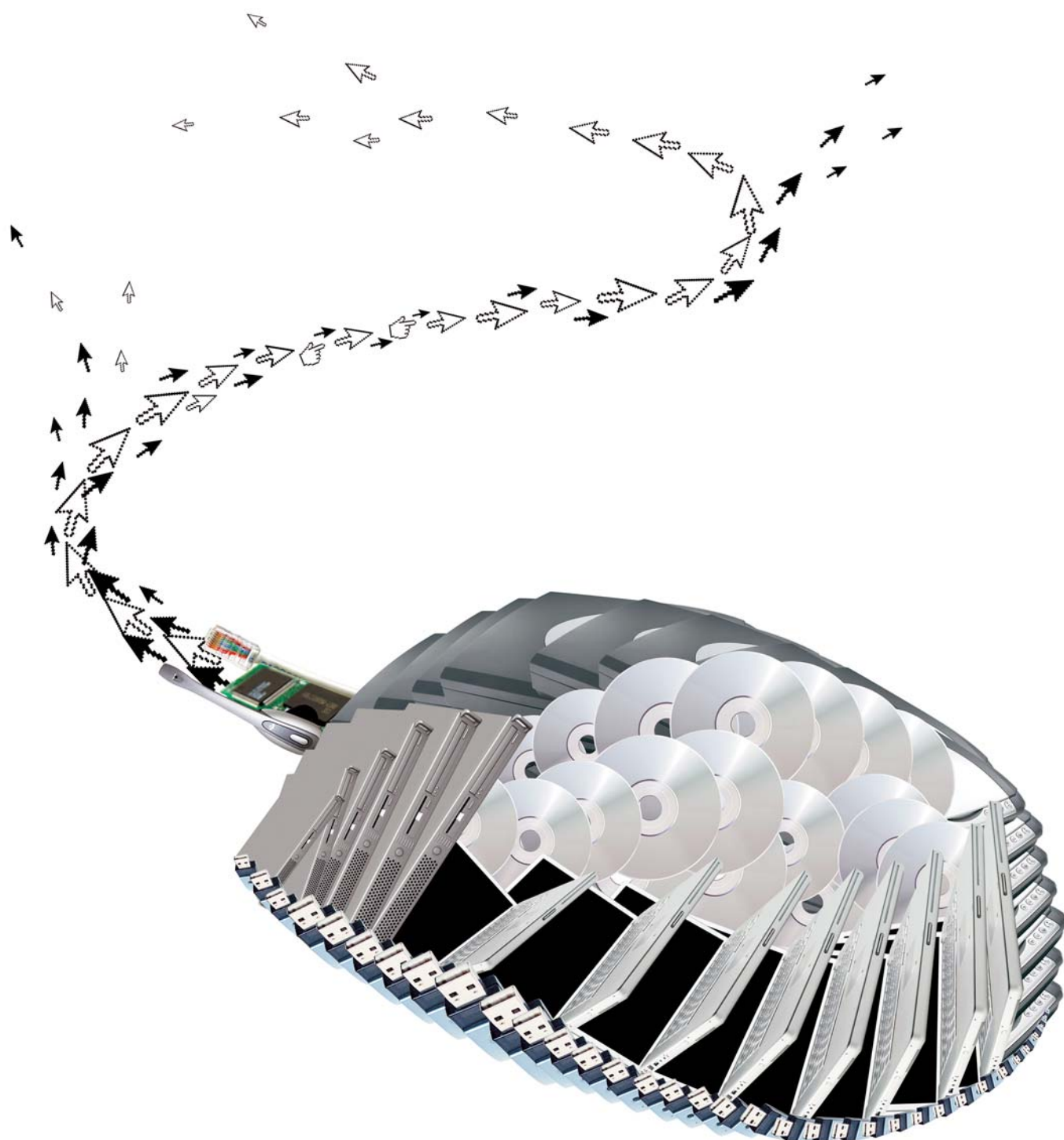


SAMPLE INTERNALLY ASSESSED UNIT COMMENTARY

UNIT 4 - CREATING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Diploma – Principal Learning Information Technology

Level 3 Unit 4 Creating Technology Solutions

Sample Internally Assessed Unit Commentary

Please note that the following internal tasks, responses and moderator commentary are provided as examples only for the purpose of assisting assessors delivering the Diploma Principal Learning. A direct relationship between the marks/commentaries and a unit grade cannot be made at this stage, since grade boundaries will be determined at the Award Meetings at the end of each series.

AQA-C&G IT DIPLOMA: PRINCIPAL LEARNING LEVEL 3, UNIT 4: CREATING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS YEAR OF EXAMINATION:

Centre Number	Candidate Name	Assessor	Total Mark	45/60
	Candidate Number	Moderator	Moderator's Mark	/60

Assessment criteria topic 1: Technology solutions in business environments (12 marks)

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	
1	Candidate has produced brief evidence of an investigation being undertaken and has produced a brief problem statement	Candidate has produced evidence of more than one appropriate method of investigation and has produced a summary of the findings of the investigation and has produced a clear problem statement	Candidate has produced evidence of more than one appropriate method of investigation and has produced a summary in depth of the findings of an investigation and has produced a detailed problem statement which shows a thorough understanding of the problems to be solved	
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate offers some background and a problem statement on page 5. It gives a clear and concise overview, showing an understanding of the problem to be solved. The candidate has designed an interview with the end user (pages 6-7). She asks the right questions and knows what she has to find out, which in turn is very clearly documented. She uses document analysis to analyse the data on the cat record card in detail, on pages 9-10.</p> <p>Comments: Perhaps in this situation (booking cats into a cattery) she could have made greater efforts to explore further current documentation, such as the diary in which bookings are made. There is a lot of good work here and it is felt there is enough depth to enter the top tier.</p>			<p>Mark</p> <p>3</p>

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
2	Candidate has identified some hardware components of the proposed system	Candidate has identified the hardware and software components of the proposed system	Candidate has produced a detailed description of the hardware and software components of the proposed system
	<p>Location of evidence: The candidate looks at the printing requirements of the solution in some detail (p.14). There is further discussion which looks at the compatibility between target and development PCs. A readily available laptop is considered and some further relevant points made (p.13-14).</p> <p>Comments: The candidate could perhaps have offered a little more in terms of hardware specification and potential software developments for full marks to be awarded.</p>		
3	Candidate has identified the users of the proposed system	Candidate has identified the users of the proposed system and some of the procedures that they will follow	Candidate has produced a detailed description of the users of the proposed system and their roles and all of the procedures that they will follow
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate briefly identifies the users of the solution on page 5, but roles are explained generally and not in enough detail to get one mark.</p> <p>Comments: Not applicable.</p>		
4	Candidate has identified some security issues in the proposed system	Candidate has identified some security issues and some networking issues in the proposed system	Candidate has shown a good understanding of the security and networking issues in the proposed system
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: In this section the candidate needs to consider security and networking issues in relation to the proposed solution. There is no real evidence.</p> <p>Comments: Not applicable.</p>		

Assessment criteria topic 2: The systems life cycle and requirements specifications (6 marks)

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
5	Candidate has produced user requirements which show some understanding of what is required of a new system	Candidate has produced user requirements which show an understanding of business user requirements of a system	Candidate has produced a clear and comprehensive set of business user requirements
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate offers a clear set of end user requirements on page 27, which are further developed on pages 29 and 30. These are linked to the needs of the business on page 30.</p> <p>Comments: The work can be placed in the top bracket.</p>		
6	Candidate has evaluated alternative solutions	Candidate has evaluated alternative solutions against the client's requirements	Candidate has evaluated alternative solutions against the client's requirements, selecting and justifying the most appropriate to support the need
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate has considered two solutions in Access™ and Excel™ on pages 17–19. The candidate tries to consider the software in relation to the client's requirements and in turn make recommendations.</p> <p>Comments: It is felt not enough detail and understanding of the issues is present.</p>		

Assessment criteria topic 3: Creation and implementation of a technology-enabled business solution (30 marks)

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
7	Candidate has produced outline designs for data structures	Candidate has produced designs for data structures and HCI	Candidate has produced effective designs for data structures and HCI
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: Correctly normalised designs are present for all data structures on pages 34 and 35. E-R diagrams are also present. The candidate has employed a generic layout design for key interfaces (p.36, p.44) and then supplied the data sources for each form in more detail. The designs for these elements are integrated into a plan of build (p.32).</p> <p>Comments: Design work can be judged as effective as the solution could be built from the sub-tasks presented.</p>		
8	The candidate has produced outline designs for processes	Candidate has produced designs for processes	Candidate has produced effective designs for processes
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: Designs are present for all query work and calculations (p.37-45). A generic header/footer design is offered for reporting with sufficient detail.</p> <p>Comments: All sub tasks clearly link to the order of build and make the designs effective.</p>		
9	Candidate has produced a partial solution.	Candidate has produced a solution which meets some user needs.	Candidate has created a solution that is fully working and effectively meets all the user needs
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate has produced a fully working solution (p.52-73). The end user requirements are stated on page 27 and developed with more detail on pages 28 and 29.</p> <p>Comments: The solution does not deal with the stocking of food but in support of the candidate the solution does generally meet all of the of end user requirements stated.</p>		

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
10	Candidate has made basic use of the software.	Candidate has exploited some of the features in the software.	Candidate has fully exploited the features in the software.
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: An effective relational database has been set up (p.55). The relationships are clearly used in the development of the Booking Form (p.59-61) and Invoice (p.63). A range of reports are offered (p.64, 65, 68, 69, 72), some based on multi table queries. The candidate makes sensible use of a subform to look at Pen availability (p.58). Calculated fields are present in queries and reports. The IIf function (p.59) is used to enable the user to select the cattery options and Form Referencing in the query which underpins the Invoice/Booking Confirmation (p.60).</p> <p>Comments: The solution has good levels of customisation, offers a range of management information options and attempts to deal with the clearing down of data.</p>		
11	Candidate has created a solution with appropriate interfaces	Candidate has created a solution which attempts to customise interfaces to aid usability	Candidate has created a solution with fully customised interfaces which pay attention to usability and has explained how it meets the client's requirements
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: Interfaces are presented in company colours. Good use of rectangles make data entry areas clearer. Clear attempts have been made to present interfaces in a common style and aid usability. The candidate also makes good use of combo boxes, check boxes and a calendar feature to make data entry easier (p.61 and 63). All interfaces contain customised command buttons to aid the user. The solution is driven by a switchboard which takes the user to the key functions (p.52-72).</p> <p>Comments: The candidate has not explained how the business user's needs have been met in great detail. It is not quite worth 3 marks but is worth more than 2 marks. However, it was felt that benefit of doubt could be given in this case.</p>		

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
12	Candidate has created a solution with an appropriate output format	Candidate has created a solution with some customised output appropriate to the client's requirements.	Candidate has created a solution with a variety of customised output and has explained how it meets the client's requirements
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate offers a sensible range of reports to aid the running of the business. Timetables (p.64-65), income (p.68 and 73), pen availability (p.69), owner history (p.73) and invoices/booking confirmation (p.63) are fully customised with an in-house style. Sensible use of grouping and sorting is present in some reports to aid usability.</p> <p>Comments: Justification for the presentation of the reports is not provided in enough detail to award full marks.</p>		Mark 2
13	Candidate has included a programmed element in the completed database	Candidate has included a working programmed element to add functionality to the completed database	Candidate has included a working programmed element to add functionality to the completed database to meet the demands of the user
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate has included a dual calendar function attached to a multi tab page (p.61-62). This involves a limited programmed element which is clearly aimed at aiding data entry and making the solution more user-friendly for the user.</p> <p>Comments: There are opportunities to add more elements that would have demonstrated programming skills more easily. For example, a programmed front end which validates user name and password would give the candidate more opportunity to gain the higher marks.</p>		Mark 1
14	Candidate has produced evidence that the system has been tested using normal test data	Candidate has produced evidence that the system has been tested using a specified range of test data	Candidate has produced evidence that the system has been tested using a specified range of test data which include attempts to provoke failure
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: Testing is fairly comprehensive and documented clearly alongside the test plan (p.78-93).</p> <p>Comments: The candidate has offered a range of tests and test data but greater attempts could have been made to provoke failure in the solution.</p>		Mark 2

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
15	Candidate has involved the user in the testing	Candidate has involved the user in testing the main features of the solution	Candidate has fully involved the user in the testing, including testing whether the solution meets the needs of the user
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: Solution has been fully tested with the business user. Meetings are documented on pages 76 and 77 with test results on page 91. Comments made can be evidenced in the report and are clearly genuine.</p> <p>Comments: Not applicable.</p>		
16	Candidate has produced a user guide which covers most of the functions of the business solution	Candidate has produced a user guide which covers all functions of the business solution	Candidate has produced an appropriate and detailed user guide that covers all the functions of the whole system
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: A fairly comprehensive user guide is included (p.94-105). All the key functions in the solution are covered such as making bookings, processing customers, cats and pens. The guide explains output briefly and deals with the removal of old bookings. There are details of installation, backup and a relevant troubleshooting section is included. Arguably, details of example output formats could have been documented a little more, but there is enough evidence here to give full marks.</p> <p>Comments: Not applicable.</p>		

Assessment criteria topic 4: Evaluation of a technology-enabled business solution (6 marks)

	0-1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
17	Candidate has produced an evaluation that shows some consideration of the original user requirements	Candidate has produced an evaluation that shows an understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the solution in relation to the original user requirements	Candidate has produced an evaluation that shows a clear understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the solution showing insight into how well it meets the original user requirements
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate revisits the requirements of the end user and makes some relevant comment. Point 6 suggests a weakness in reporting, point 7 deals with double bookings (p.110-112).</p> <p>Comments: You get the feeling the candidate is trying to think through the effectiveness of their solution. However it was felt clearer evidence could have been provided from what was a good set of end user requirements.</p>		
18	Candidate has shown some understanding of the improvements required to the completed solution	Candidate has shown an understanding of improvements required in the business solution and has included plans for the improvements	Candidate has shown a clear understanding of the improvements required and has included plans for improvement and explained how feedback from the end user is reflected in the plan
	<p>Location of evidence, including page number: The candidate considers the testing that has taken place and documented a number of sensible and realistic improvements. She outlines an action plan for development but fails to include designs for those improvements (p.113).</p> <p>Comments: Not applicable.</p>		

Use of appropriate and accurate contextual English in documents (6 marks)

0-1 mark		2 marks	3 marks
19	Candidate has produced clear documents	Candidate has produced clear documents that follow layout conventions	
	Location of evidence, including page number: Comments: The report is well organised, sensibly illustrated and an easy read. The report has a contents page and is clearly broken down into the key sections. Good use of page numbering, headers, footers and fonts aid the overall quality. Scanned documents have been imported and good use made of tables. It is easy to see the development of the work from initial investigations to final solution with no superfluous material.		Mark 2
20	Candidate has mostly used appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar	Candidate has used appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar in all documents	
	Location of evidence, including page number: Comments: The candidate has used appropriate spelling and grammar throughout and has made use of specialist vocabulary appropriately.		Mark 2
21	Candidate has used some specialist vocabulary	Candidate has used appropriate specialist vocabulary	
	Location of evidence, including page number: Comments: The candidate has used appropriate spelling and grammar throughout and has made use of specialist vocabulary appropriately.		Mark 2

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