INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **GENERAL COMMENTS**
The question set were within the scope of the syllabus and the standard of the paper was comparable to that of last years.

A few candidates performed excellently, especially those from schools that have ICT facilities and good ICT teachers. These candidates exhibited adequate knowledge in ICT at the level for which the questions were set. The performances of some schools were however, below average probably because candidates did not have ICT facilities and good ICT teachers.

2. **SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS**
(1)   There has been an improvement in the performance of candidates this year compared to that of last years. The compulsory questions, which involved the identification of a diagram on computer and its peripherals, were satisfactorily answered by many candidates.

(2)   Functions of floppy disk, printer and scanner were correctly given by most candidates. Other questions were also well answered by few candidates. Candidates generally gave concise answers to questions and performed creditably which needs commendation.

(3)   Adequate understanding of ICT terms was also demonstrated.

3. **SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES**
(1)   Some candidates appeared not to have adequately prepared for the ICT examination. These candidates gave incoherent answers and demonstrated the lack of knowledge in ICT.

(2)   Questions on spreadsheet were not satisfactorily answered by most candidates. It was obvious in some cases that some schools had no ICT facilities. Some candidates did not understand the questions due to their poor standard in English. Such candidates could not construct correct sentences and even copied wrongly words that were in the question paper.

4. **SUGGESTED REMEDIES**
(1)   Schools must endeavour to acquire computers and employ qualified teachers to teach ICT. Candidates would perform well in ICT examinations when they have access to computers and are adequately taught by qualified ICT teachers.

(2)   Teachers must lay emphasis on both practical and theory and treat all topics in the ICT syllabus.

(3)   Candidates must improve their standard in English so that they understand questions and give correct spelling of words in their responses. Candidates must also be encouraged to read good and appropriate story books to improve their English.

Question 1
This was a compulsory question. Candidates were requested to identify the diagram of a computer and the accompanying peripherals indicated by alphabets, (a), (b), (c) etc. They were also to list five main components of a computer keyboard, give the processing cycle and list the steps in turning off a personal computer.

The identifications were correctly done by most candidates. Some also gave the five main components of a computer keyboard, the processing cycle and the steps involved in turning off a computer correctly.

Few had difficulty with the listing of the components of the keyboard while some mixed up the processing cycle stages and the steps involved in turning off a personal computer.

Question 2
Candidates were requested to: (a) state the functions of floppy disk, printer, scanner and uninterrupted power supply (UPS).; (b) write the acronyms ALU and CPU in full.

Most candidates correctly stated the functions of floppy disk, printer and scanner, but only few of them could state the functions of UPS. The UPS is used to ensure constant supply of electric power to the computer system and also used to sustain power for some time when the mains goes off.

Some could also write ALU and CPU in full but few of them gave wrong spellings.
ALU: - Arithmetic Logic Unit;
CPU: - Central Processing Unit.

Question 3
Candidates were requested to (a) explain System software and Application software; (b) state the functions of the minimize, maximize and close buttons.

Most candidates could not explain the two types of software. System software is a set of programs/instructions that control and coordinate the reasources and operations of the computer system.

Application software is a program that helps the user to accomplish specific tasks.

Most candidates stated correctly the functions of the minimize, maximize and close buttons.
Question 4
Candidates were to: (a) explain Internet fraud; (b) state three ways ICT can be used in basic education ; (c) list three devices that may be used when connecting to the internet.

Few candidates could explain what internet fraud is. - Internet fraud is the use of internet to cheat or steal from other users.

Many candidates stated correctly three ways ICT can be used in Basic Education and also listed correctly the devices that may be used when connecting to the internet.

Some devices expected are: - Computer, Modem, Mobile phone, Telephone, Satelite, Router, I-pad etc. Few candidates wrongly included service providers as devices.

Question 5
This question was not popular and only few candidates attempted it. They were to explain the following spreadsheet terms: - Worksheet, Active cell, Range and Workbook.

The questions were not satisfactorily answered by many who attempted them.   Expected solutions were:
*   Worksheet - is the electronic sheet that contains rows and columns;
*   Active cell - is the cell that is ready to receive data;
*   Range - is a group of specified/selected adjacent cells;
*   Workbook - is a spreadsheet file which consists of one or more worksheet(s).