INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL COMMENTS

The questions were of standard and were within the scope of the syllabus. The paper was comparable to the previous ones in content and scope; but the standard was a little higher.

There was an improvement in the performance of candidates. A greater number of candidates exhibited mastery of the subject matter and demonstrated improved knowledge in IT.

Few candidates, however, performed below average and showed lack of adequate knowledge in ICT.

SUMMARY OF CANDIDATE'S STRENGTHS

Some candidates gave concise answers to questions and demonstrated adequate knowledge in Information and Communication Technology. Questions on the keyboard, Internet usage, storage media, communication and devices for sending and receiving information were well answered by many candidates.

Candidates also gave correct responses on questions that involved word processing application and to a lesser extent, spreadsheet.

Candidates should be encouraged to muster ICT technical terms; and have enough practical lessons. They should be encouraged to give concise and coherent responses.

SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES WEAKNESSES

Candidates' responses to questions that involved the use of formula in spreadsheet, video conferencing, font, ergonomic and copyright were wrongly answered by many candidates.

Some candidates could not comprehend the questions due to inadequate command of the English Language. Such candidates were not able to express themselves.

It was also apparent that few candidates had practical lesson, probably due to lack of computers in the schools. Some schools might also not have trained and competent ICT teachers.

SUGGESTED REMEDIES

Institutions, teachers and candidates must pay equal attention to all topics in the ICT syllabus. Practical lessons should be encouraged, to ensure that students understand theory lessons better.

Institutions must ensure they have computers and their students must have access to these computers.

Question 1

This was a compulsory question.

(a)   Candidates were requested to name the application program used for the document, identify the parts of the spreadsheet document labeled I, II and III, and then provide the formula used in calculating the results in the specified cells.

(b)   The section requested candidates to identify the computer keyboard, name the parts labeled A, B, C, D, E; state the functions of the B and C, and state one function of the keyboard.

Most candidates named the program correctly as spreadsheet. Some could identify the labeled pasts. But most candidates could not provide the requested formula. Most candidates used the multiplication sign (x) instead of the operator (*) in the formula that demanded multiplication.

(c)   Most candidates identified correctly the keyboard and gave the correct names of the keys. They also stated correctly the functions of the labeled parts and the keyboard.

Question 2

Candidates were requested to:-

> **(a)   State two positive uses and two negative uses of the Internet.**
> **(b)   List four Storage Media**

This question was popular and most candidates gave the positive and negative uses of the Internet. Many of them also listed correctly four storage media.

Question 3

Candidates were asked to
> **(a)   Explain communication as used in the computer industry (b) state what video conferencing is.**
> **(c)   List two devices associated with video conferencing and (d) state four media for sending and receiving information.**

Many candidates explained communication, but could not state what video conferencing is:-

Video conferencing is the use of video and sound technology and computer to enable people in different locations talk to and see each other.

Most candidates however, listed correctly the devices associated with video conferencing and also stated the media for sending and receiving information.

Question 4

Candidates were requested to:-

      (a)   State when it is appropriate to use
             (i)   Copy and Paste   (ii)   Cut and Paste
      (b)   State what font is and list three font styles.

Many candidates stated when it is appropriate to use copy and paste; and cut and paste. Most candidates could not state what font is and very few candidates listed the font styles. Font is the appearance/typeface of characters on computer screen.

Font styles are: - Italic, Bold, Bold Italic and Regular

Question 5

Candidates were expected to state:-

      (a)   What (i) mother board, (ii) ergonomics and (iii) menu bar are.
      (b)   What copyright is used for:-

Many candidates stated what motherboard and menu are, but could not state what ergonomics is:–

Ergonomics is the science of study of employees (workers) and their work environment. Many could also not state what copyright is:-

Copyright is sued to prohibit the coping of intellectual property without the permission of the original owner.