



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 13 June 2022 – Afternoon

A Level Computer Science

H446/01 Computer Systems

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You can use:

- an HB pencil

Do not use:

- a calculator



Please write clearly in black ink. **Do not write in the barcodes.**

Centre number

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Candidate number

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First name(s)

Last name

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink. You can use an HB pencil, but only for graphs and diagrams.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If you need extra space use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Answer **all** the questions.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **140**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **32** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

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3

Answer **all** questions.

1 A charity uses a desktop computer to record financial donations that it receives. The computer contains a single core, 2.4GHz processor with 2MB cache.

(a) The processor uses the Von Neumann architecture.

(i) Describe what is meant by the term 'Von Neumann architecture'.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(ii) Give **one** way that the Harvard architecture differs from the Von Neumann architecture.

.....
..... [1]

(b) The charity is concerned that the performance of the computer is not sufficient and wishes to replace the processor.

Give **two** features of a replacement processor that would increase the typical performance of the computer.

1
.....
2
..... [2]

- (c) **Fig. 1** shows assembly code written using the Little Man Computer (LMC). The program calculates and outputs the total amount that is donated to the charity in any particular day. Depending on the amount, an additional bonus may be added to each amount donated.

```

start      INP
           STA donation
           SUB hundred
           BRP bonus
nobonus    LDA total
           ADD donation
           STA total
           OUT
           BRA start
bonus      LDA total
           ADD donation
           ADD twenty
           STA total
           OUT
           BRA start
hundred    DAT 100
twenty     DAT 20
donation   DAT 0
total      DAT 0

```

Fig. 1

- (i) The program shown in **Fig. 1** is run **once** using **three** different inputs. Therefore, while the program is running once, it will output the updated total three times.

Give the total values that are output when the values **10**, **50** and **120** are input into this program.

Output for 10

Output for 50

Output for 120

[3]

(ii) Write LMC code that will reset the value of the memory location labelled `total` to zero and then stop the program.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

(iii) This program is run on a processor that allows pipelining.

Define the term 'pipelining'.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

(iv) Explain **one** benefit to the charity of using a processor that allows pipelining.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(d) The processor contains registers including the accumulator and the program counter. The contents of these registers are modified during the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle.

(i) Describe how the accumulator is used during the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(ii) Describe how the program counter is used during the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(iii) State the name of **three** other registers that are used during the Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle.

1
.....
2
.....
3
..... [3]

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- 2 A video streaming service uses a relational database. An extract of the data from two tables from this database is shown in **Fig. 2**.

Membership contains data about current memberships that customers hold and package contains data about different streaming packages available.

Username	FirstName	StartDate	PackageType
User001	Amaya	08/05/2016	Premium
User002	Amit	06/06/2019	Basic
User003	Tom	17/08/2019	Free
User004	Kareem	08/08/2017	Basic
User005	Sarah	25/03/2020	Premium

Membership

PackageType	CostPerMonth (£)	Adverts
Premium	12.99	false
Basic	7.99	true
Free	0.00	true

Package

Fig. 2

- (a) (i) State what is meant by the term 'primary key'.

.....
 [1]

- (ii) Identify the foreign key used in the database and the table name where this is a foreign key.

Foreign Key

.....

Table Name

..... [2]

- (iii) Identify the data type of the CostPerMonth (£) field.

.....
 [1]

(c) When new customers join the streaming service, their name, email address and contact details are captured so that they can be entered into the database.

(i) Identify **one** method of capturing a new customer's personal data, describing why this method is suitable.

Method

.....

Suitability

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

(ii) Sometimes the company may need to move or backup its data they hold about customers.

Identify **two** methods of exchanging data with other computer systems.

1

.....

2

.....

[2]

(d) The database supports ACID transactions. ACID stands for Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability.

(i) Describe what is meant by a transaction being durable.

.....

.....

.....

.....

[2]

(ii) Give **one** way that durability can be achieved for a completed transaction.

.....

.....

[1]

(iii) Explain how record locking can be used to ensure that the ACID principle of isolation is achieved when carrying out multiple transactions.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

(iv) Give **one** disadvantage of using record locking.

.....
..... [1]

(e) The Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 applies to all videos that are streamed.

Explain how this act applies to the videos.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

- (ii) A public method called `updateviews()` will update the number of views after a video has been viewed. This method is defined inside the `video` class.

Write program code or pseudocode for the method `updateviews()` to increase the number of views by one.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

3 (a) (i) Convert the hexadecimal value **B7E** to a binary number.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) 110010101 is a binary number that is represented using sign and magnitude.

Convert this binary number to a denary number.

.....
..... [1]

(iii) Complete this binary subtraction. Both numbers are 8-bit integer values represented using two's complement.

Show the result in the same format and show your working.

$$\begin{array}{r} 0110\ 1101 \\ - \\ 0011\ 0100 \end{array}$$

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

- (b) The normalised floating point number 1010 1110 is stored using 4 bits for the mantissa and 4 bits for the exponent, both in two's complement.

Give the denary version of this number, showing your working.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]

- (c) **Table 3** here shows floating point numbers that are stored using 6 bits for the mantissa and 3 bits for the exponent, both in two's complement.

Tick (✓) one box in each row to state whether each number is normalised or not normalised.

Binary number	Normalised	Not normalised
010101 100		
110101 111		
011010 010		
101010 110		

Table 3

[4]

5 A programmer creates this function shown in **Fig. 5** using a high-level language.

```
function mystery(x, y)
    total = x + y
    while x >= 10 then
        x = x - 10
        y = y - 10
        total = total + x + y
    endwhile
    return total
endfunction
```

Fig. 5

(a) (i) State the value output by the line `print(mystery(10, 20))`

.....
..... [1]

(ii) State the value output by the line `print(mystery(0, 70))`

.....
..... [1]

(iii) State the value output by the line `print(mystery(45, 55))`

.....
..... [1]

(b) Before the code in **Fig. 5** can be executed, a translator must be used.

(i) State the purpose of a translator.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) Explain **two** differences between a compiler and an interpreter.

Difference 1

.....
.....
.....

Difference 2

.....
.....
.....

[4]

(c) For each statement shown in **Table 5**, tick (✓) **one** box in each row to indicate which stage of compilation each action takes place at.

	Lexical analysis	Syntax analysis	Code generation
Comments and whitespace are removed			
Keywords are replaced with tokens			
Object code is created			
Symbol table created for variables			
Builds an abstract syntax tree			

Table 5

[5]

(d) Describe the purpose of code optimisation.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

- (e) The programmer creates another function to count and return how many capital letters are in a string that is passed into the function as a parameter.

The `asc()` function takes in a character and returns its ASCII value. For example `asc("A")` returns 65. Capital letters have ASCII values between 65 and 90 inclusive.

- (i) Complete the function below.

```
function countCapitals(text)
    // initialise counter to 0
    capCount = 0
    // loop through each character in the string passed in
    for x = 0 to text.length-1
        c = text.subString(x, 1)
        // check if character is a capital
        if asc(c) >= 65 .....
            // if so, increment counter
            .....
        endif
    next x
    .....
endfunction
```

[3]

- (ii) Give **one** similarity between ASCII and Unicode.

.....
 [1]

- (iii) Give **two** differences between ASCII and Unicode.

Difference 1

 Difference 2
 [2]

6 Anika’s computer runs a multi-tasking operating system. She has access to a printer and a broadband internet connection through a wireless connection. The operating system uses scheduling algorithms such as first come first served and round-robin.

(a) (i) Explain why the computer’s operating system uses a first come first served algorithm when sending documents to the printer.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

(ii) Explain why the computer’s operating system uses a round-robin algorithm for allocating processor time.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

(iii) Describe **one** other scheduling algorithm.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

If additional space is required, you should use the following lined page(s). The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margin(s).

A large area of lined paper for writing, consisting of horizontal dotted lines and a vertical solid line on the left side. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page area below the text.

A blank sheet of lined paper. On the left side, there is a solid vertical line that serves as a margin. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a guide for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A blank sheet of lined paper. On the left side, there is a solid vertical line that serves as a margin. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a guide for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A large area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a space for writing answers. A solid vertical line runs down the left side of this area, creating a margin.

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