#### 2.1 Algorithms – Past Exam Questions – Solutions

#### <mark>2022</mark>

- Decomposition
- Abstraction

2	(b)		Guid Corr Not study carry Satt and disc	hat do not not three checks all sing dian Outputs arallelog Outputs arallelog ance for conditions Saturday dent or had i).	t lead to another a variables usin; three criteria (d nond shape(s)) s "full price" with iram shape s "half price" wit iram shape correct outputs  and (either a is a discount  (not a student have a	boxes connecter box (no arrows g parallelogram lay, student, diswith two lines from correct condition h co	s needed) n shape count card) om each	5 (AO3 2a)	BP 4	el language of 4 and 5 only out and <u>clea</u>	INPU INPU INPU INPU INPU INPU INPU INPU	day  or fine for fine		9 (NAQ). sure correct
				N N N Y Y Y	N N Y Y N N N Y	Y N Y N Y N Y	Half price Half price Half price Half price Full price Full price Full price Full price Full price		Allow this Input boxe Pen BOIL	mpt all three w calculatio must still be uts / decision es but must alise lack of	e decisions n of half pri output. ns may be still store a	ice / full presente as three vram for its sif not se	price instead of the state of t	of message but  If or combined  If or combined  If or confly then FT  If or output as ts at end)
	2	(c)		• (	<b>nore</b> than 5 peo Choice between	le (at the table) / pple or not percentage and rcentage, value	value // actual	(A	2 O3 a)	Ignore add the meal. Accept inpo Max 1 if oth	itional inpu uts in form ner irreleva o leave a ti	of pseud nt inputs p or not"	ould be sensible occode / high-legiven.	evel language.  Itip" NE for BP2.  To of tip if asked for.
	2	(d)	(i)	1	vert/change one 03 // 3 // three	data <b>type</b> to an	other	(AO	2 1 1b, 2 2b)	Do not account not a d		je to strin	ng" – this is the	use in this example
	2	(d)	(ii)	<ul><li>Kofi</li><li>Kofi</li></ul>	2021 as staffID 2021x as staffIE 2021xx as staff ofi2021xx outp	O on line 05	first and only oul	(AO:	4 3 2c)	Penalise la capitalisation staffID de Penalise sp Quotes arc partial ansi	ck of / erro on. Ignore a pes not have paces once	ors with ling additional ve space then FT er is OK,	in. Output doe  . Do not pena	nce then FT. Ignore outcome impacted. es have a space in. Ilise unless obvious. w quotes around
										Line number	surname	year	staffID	Output
										01	Kofi	0001		
										02		2021	Kofi2021	
										05			Kofi2021x	
										05			Kofi2021xx	
										07				ID Kofi2021xx

		-		
Q	uestion (a)	Merge into correct sorted lists of size 2 (12 45 / -99 100 / -1)		lark Guidance 3 Do not credit BP3 simply for a sorted list.
	( )	-27 17)	(AO:	02 1b)
		<ul> <li>Merge into correct sorted lists of size 4 (-99 12 45 100 / -27 0 17)</li> </ul>	-13	Groups of numbers must clearly be the correct size.
		Merge into correct <b>sorted</b> list of <b>size 8</b> (-99 -27 -13 0 12 1 100)	17 45	Do not all allow answers that show lists being merged and then sorting in place, this is incorrect.
3	(b)	Any four bullet points for 1 mark each  Select / choose / pick middle number (or left/right of middle even number) and		Do not allow "split the list in half" on its own as first step, this is incorrect.
		<ul> <li>check if selected number is equal to / matches target number (not just compare)</li> </ul>		Can get BP1 and 2 in one step (e.g. "check if the middle number is the one we're looking for")
		<ul> <li>if searched number is larger, discard left half // if search number is smaller, discard right half</li> <li>Repeat until number found</li> </ul>	ied	For BP3, accept focussing on correct half
		or remaining list is of size 1 / 0 (number not found)		Repeat (BP4) must be in the context of an attempt at a binary search. Allow correct reference to recursion.
				"until number is not in the list" is NE for final BP. Need to explain how this is known.
3	(c)	mark each     Starting with the first value     Checking all values in order		2 2 2nd bullet point must cover both ideas of checking all of the values AND being done in order.
				"Checks each value" / "one by one" / "step by step" by itself is NE, does not say in order.
				Do not accept "repeat until value found" for BP2 (question says number is not in the list)
				"Checks each value from beginning to end" implies order so gets both BP1 and BP2.
4	(c)	input and stores/uses value with message     attempt at repeating		6 e.g. 03 2b, num = input("Enter how many numbers")
		<ul> <li>attempt at repeating</li> <li>correctly repeats number of times given as input</li> </ul>	ÃΟ	for $x = 1$ to num
		<u>correctly</u> take number as input within loop <u>and</u> calculate total of these numbers	es	<pre>temp = input("Enter a number") total = total + temp</pre>
		correctly calculate an average (total/num)		next x print(total)
		Output <u>both</u> total and average		print(total / num)
				If flow chart used, correct shapes needed.
				Allow tolerance of 1 with number of loops for BP3 with for loops
				BP1 requires input with a message (can be two statements, e.g. print and then input or combined. Input must be stored or used.
				BP3, 4, 5 must be logically correct to be credited Ignore non-initialisation of total
				BP 5 can be given as FT as long as an attempt has been made at working out a total within the loop.
				BP6 can be given as FT long as attempt made at total and average (not necessarily in a loop)
5	(e)	Inputs hours AND electric (two separate inputs),		itialisation of price and hours not necessary, but if present hours
		storing or using these.  Checks if car is electric (IF/Select statement) correctly calculates and outputs price (hours * 2	O3 2c)	ust be non-zero for BP6 to be given. P5 must include all points attempted. Can still be credited if any of
		<ul> <li>correctly calculates and outputs price (nours * 2 // price / 2) for electric</li> <li>correctly calculates and outputs price (hours * 4</li> </ul>	BP	P1 to 4 not attempted / incorrect. P6 can be given as FT even if BP5 (loop) is in the wrong place /
		// electric price * 2) for non-electric  • Attempt at repetition of BP1 to 4  •until 0 hours entered	doe	pes not include all required code  26 could be achieved as repeated function calls / recursion
		- Martin o riodio oritoroa		·
			fine	itial input outside of loop that is then <u>also</u> included within loop is e. For example, input of hours outside of loop but input is then peated again at end of loop.
			Do	o not accept while hours > 0 (could be -1)
			Do	o not penalise answers where 0 is output when loop exits
				<pre>g. nile hours != 0 hours = input("Enter hours") electric = input("enter Y for electric or N") if electric == "Y" then     price = hours * 2 elseif electric == "N" then     price = hours * 4 endif print(price) ndwhile</pre>
			en	IGMITTE

# <mark>Sample Paper</mark>

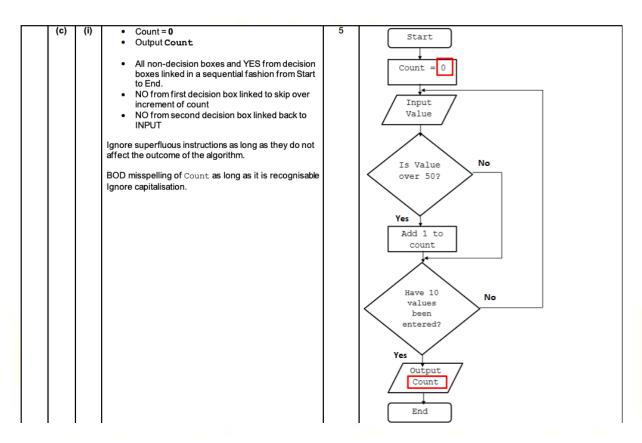
2	а		<ul> <li>input("enter first number")</li> <li>if</li> <li>num2</li> <li>print (num1)</li> <li>print (num2)</li> </ul>	5 (AO3 2b)	Allow equivalent pseudocode expressions Variables must not have speech marks around them
	b		use of condition controlled loop (while or do/until)  n.checking condition of number larger than or equal to 0  Input number from user within loop (FT if no loop)  multiply number input by 2 output value in number	5 (AO3 2b)	e.g. 1 store 10 in number while number is greater than or equal to 0 do the following: Take input from the user, store in number Multiply number by 2 Output number  e.g. 2 while number >= 0 number = input() output(number * 2) Ignore non-initialisation of value used in condition for loop.
4	а		RebEl	1 (AO2 1b)	Correct Answer Only (allow any case)
	b	i	uitFr	1 (AO2 1b)	Correct Answer Only (allow any case)
		ii	Taking firstname, surname and teacher or student as input Checking IF role is teacher/student (using	6 (AO3 2b)	mark for each correct bullet to a maximum of 6.  If used, a flowchart should represent the bulleted steps in the answer column.
			appropriate selection)  For teacherGenerating last 3 letters of surname using appropriate string manipulation Generating first 2 of letters of firstname and adding to previous  For student correctly calculating as before  Correct concatenation and output  e.g.  Ask the user to input the data, store in variables firstname, surname and role.  Check whether the role entered is teacher. If it is, join the right 3 most letters in surname with the left 2 letters in firstname. Store this in username.  If it is not teacher, join the left 3 letters from firstname with the left 2 letters from surname. Store this in username.  Output the value in username.		
6	а		crime bait fright victory nibble loose bait crime fright victory nibble loose bait crime fright nibble victory loose bait crime fright nibble loose victory bait crime fright loose nibble victory	4 (AO2 1b)	1 mark for each row from rows 2–5. Allow multiple swaps in one stage, where it is clear that a bubble sort has been applied.
6	b		Comparing zebra to orange Greater, so split and take right side Further comparison (1 or 2 depending on choices made) Correct identification of zebra using methodology above e.g. compare zebra to orange greater, split right compare to wind greater, split right compare to zebra	4 (AO2 1b)	mark per bullet (multiple ways through, marks awarded for appropriate comparison and creation of sub groups).

8	е						4 (AO3 2c)	one mark for first row
				x	у	output	(AUS 20)	one mark for first row one mark for row 2 and 3
			MP1	15	0			one mark for row 2 and 3 one mark for rows 4, 5, and 6
				14	1			one mark for the correct output (the only value in the
			MP2	12	2			output column, in any position)
				9	3			
			мР3	5	4			
				0	5			
			MP4			5		
8	g	i	Number  Output     Number	of hours and m	inutes		2 (AO3 2a)	
8	g	iii	Compares if    if true, out     long!"	from the user f input is larger tputs "You plautputs "You ar	ayed games		4 (AO3 2b)	High-level programming language / OCR Exam Reference Language response required  Do not accept pseudocode / natural English.  Example algorithm given below  minutes = input ("Enter minutes played") if minutes > 120     print "You played games for too long!" else     print "You are under your time limit!" endif  Accept alternative (but suitable) output messages.  Accept logical comparison of input less than or equal to 120 and appropriate True/False statements.

# 2021

2	(a)	Statement	True (✔)	False (✓)	1	1 mark per row
		The list of words is initially split into a sorted set and an unsorted set	<b>✓</b>			
		The insertion sort uses a divide stage and then a conquer stage.		<b>✓</b>		
		The list of words must be in order before the insertion sort can start		✓		
		Each word is inserted into the correct place in the array, one by one	✓			
		The insertion sort will not work because the word "wall" appears twice.		✓		
	(b)	Pick middle value / pumpkin // find midpoi Compare this to house, no match pumpkin>houseso discard top half of list // focus on bot Pick middle value again, either house orfinds value // repeat to find value	tom half		4	Do not award generic responses except for BP1 Must clearly show the steps taken for this list to achieve more than 1 mark.  Do not award "splits the list in half" for BP1 or 4 – incorrect  Allow diagrams to demonstrate the process  Allow reasonable attempt at BP3 to allow access to BP4

C	uestio	n	Answer	Mark	Guidance
3	(a)		Initialises (total) as 0 (outside loop if present) Inputs a number and stores the value Adds the input to the total (initialised in BP1 if present) Prints the total Iterates over BP2-4 (if present)until total is over 100	6	<pre>Example answer total = 0 while total &lt;=100     x = input("Enter a number")     total = total + x     print(total) endwhile</pre>



	(ii) 1 mark per bullet point, max 5 • Initialises a count variable to 0 • asks user for an input • Check if input is over 50 • increment count variable if True • Repeats BP 2 and 3 (if present) until 10 numbers have been entered • Outputs count once 10 numbers have been entered	5	Example answer  count = 0 for x = 1 to 10     value = input("enter a value")     if value > 50 then         count = count + 1     endif next x print(count)  Response must be in pseudocode as per question, flowcharts or structured English are NAQ.
(d)	e.g. Abstraction focussing on the important elements // ignoring elements that do not contribute to the solution // simplifying the problem  Decompositionbreaking a problem down (into its constituent parts)  Algorithmic thinkingset out the steps needed to solve the problem // represented in a flow chart / as pseudocode	4	Mark in pairs. 1 mark for name, 1 mark for description.  Description must match technique (if given).

## <mark>2020</mark>

2	(a)	10 Line	Program code  print score  print "name"  print newscore(score,2)  print score	Output  18  name  37	4 AO2 1b(4)	
3	(c)	•¢ •v <u>Tru</u> •¢	r bullet lecking if money>=price decision (diamond shape) u enditem() and giveChar ue/Yes output an error if False / No rminator used to start and e ths terminated	nge(money-price) j		
6	(a)	•d mo	ccess <u>"Rob"</u> / <u>studentname:</u> does <b>not</b> equal "Anna" // no poe on ccess <u>"Anna"</u> / <u>studentname</u> does equal "Anna" // stop //	ot desired item //	AO2 1b(4)	Answer must refer to this array, not a generic description of linear search. "Access first item" is NE for BP1 or BP3. Must refer to this scenario.  Max 1 for "Compare 'Anna' to each item in list" if nothing else credited.
6	(b)	ele	ina inserted before Rob as ements Huw correctly inserted into Emma correctly inserted in Patrice correctly inserted in Iquid patrice correctly inserted in Iquid Correctly inserted into the changes made.	sorted list to sorted list nto sorted list	5 AO2 1b(5)	Rob Anna Huw Emma Patrice Iqbal Anna Rob Huw Emma Patrice Iqbal Anna Huw Rob Emma Patrice Iqbal Anna Emma Huw Rob Patrice Iqbal Anna Emma Huw Rob Patrice Iqbal Anna Emma Huw Patrice Rob Iqbal Anna Emma Huw Iqbal Patrice Rob Sorted list highlighted

## <mark>2019</mark>

2	(a)		1 mark per bullet to max 4, 1 mark per row	4 AO2 1b (4)	Correct Answer Only
			• 10 • 6		Do not accept "X", "Y", etc.
			• 6 • 2		
2	(b)		1 mark per bullet to max 6.	6 AO3 2b (6)	Question specifically asks for pseudocode.
			Inputs two value (as X and Y)	A00 20 (0)	Outputs should only be given if they occur with the right condition(s).
			<ul> <li>Compares if X is larger than Y</li> <li>Outputs Y*X only when <u>False</u></li> </ul>		
		l I	<ul> <li>Compares if X is less than 12</li> <li>Outputs X only when True and X &gt; Y</li> </ul>		Example algorithm
			<ul> <li>Outputs Y only when False and X &gt; Y</li> </ul>		input x input y
					if x > y then if x < 12 then
					print x else
					print y end if
					else print y*x
					end if
					Variables do not have to be called x and y.
					Accept equivalent comparisons (e.g. if X <= Y)
					Allow FT for outputs from incorrect comparisons where a sensible attempt has been made.
					sensible attempt has been made.
3	(a)	(i)	1 mark per bullet to max 1	1	Do not accept examples of logic errors.
			An error that results in incorrect output / unexpected	AO1 1b (1)	
			result Contains an error but still runs / doesn't crash		
3	(a)	(ii)	if num MOD 2 == 0 then	1 AO3 2b (1)	Important point is that >= is changed to == or =.  Accept alternatives that produce the same result (e.g.
			if num MOD 2 = 0 then	,	<=0, <1, !=1, etc.)
					Ignore any casting (e.g. using int() to convert to a number)
					Accept other minor changes to the line as long it logically works.
					Accept versions of MOD from high level languages (e.g.
					Python: if num % 2 == 0)
		(1-)	D. I d. model nos hullet to move d		D
	3	(b) (	1) 1 mark per bullet to max 1	1 AO1 1b (2	Do not accept examples of syntax error (e.g. misspelling).
			An error in the grammar of the program // error that breaks the rules of the programming language		
			Contains an error but will not run / translate / execute		
-	3	(b) (	i) print("odd")	1 1	Must include quotes (single or double). Do not penalise
				AO2 1b (1	Accept sensible alternatives to "odd"
_					Accept alternatives for print / output as long as spelling is accurate
	4	(a) (	i) 1 mark per bullet to max 2	2 AO1 1a (1	
			Removing / hiding / obscuring unnecessary detail     Focusing on the important detail	AO1 1b (1	Must be the programmer making the decision.
			Simplifies the problem // reduces complexity // Easy solve / understand	to	
_	4	(a) (	i) 1 mark per bullet to max 1	1 AO2 1a (1	Mark first answer only
			Suitable example of what can be focused on (e.g. player name, match results, goals scored)		Allow any suitable example of abstraction as long it is relevant to the system.
			Suitable example of what to remove/hide (anything relevant that is not results/goals scored)		Allow either first name or surname to be removed as an
			Suitable example of a simplification made		example, but do not allow both to be removed as all

## The GCSE Computer Science Tutor

(c)	(i)	Not in order / sorted	1 AO2 1b (1)	Mark first answer only
(c)	(ii)	Linear (search)	1 AO1 1b (1)	Mark first answer only Allow other valid searching algorithms as long as they
(d)	(i)	mark per bullet to max 2     Flag / record whether a swap has taken place or not checked as condition to decide whether to repeat	2 AO2 1b (2)	work on an unsorted list (e.g front and back search)  The variable records whether a swap has taken place; it does <b>not</b> perform the swap.
(d)	(ii)	1 mark per bullet to max 2     Swaps    values of queuesize[p] and queuesize[p+1]    when queuesize[p] is larger than queuesize[p+1]     using a temporary variable //doesn't overwrite numbers //explanation of process	2 AO2 1b (2)	Do not accept "sorts numbers"  "swaps numbers" meets BP1. Explanation of which values in the array are swapped meets BP1 and BP2.  Do not accept direct word for word repetition from the program (e.g. temp = queuesize[p]), question asks for an explanation.  Explanation of temporary variable must be logically correct.
(d)	(iv)	1 mark per bullet to max 2.  Insertion (sort)  Merge (sort)	2 AO1 1a (2)	Accept "insert". Do not penalise spelling.  Do not accept bubble sort (given in previous questions)  Do not award searching algorithms  Allow other <u>valid</u> sorting algorithms.  (e.g. quick sort, heap sort, shell sort, selection sort, radix sort, bucket sort, tim sort, comb sort, pigeonhole sort, etc.)
(e)		Input height Accepts riders > / >= 140 with suitable message Rejects riders < / <= 120 with suitable message Checks if height between 120 and 140  If True, input whether accompanied Correctly counts number of riders in all cases of being allowed to ride (do not penalise candidates for counting or not counting accompanying adults) Attempt to loop based on 8 riders allowed  Some checks for rider height may be implicit (e.g. using ELSE after checking other heights). If the answer logically works to produce the correct output, it should be marked as correct.  Loop will almost certainly be condition controlled (WHILE/DO UNTIL) to gain BP8; count controlled (FOR) loop requires significant manipulation to work successfully.	8 AO3 2b (8)	Answers can be in any suitable format (including pseudocode, flowchart, etc). If flowchart used, accept any sensible shapes.  Do not penalise for lack of initialisation of variables.  Loop must repeat until 8 riders allowed, not just loop 8 times.  Do not credit asking whether accompanied if in the wrong place.  Condition for BP4 may be 120 < h < 140  Example algorithm riders=0 while riders <8 input height if height >= 140 then output "allowed" riders = riders + 1 elif height >=120 then input withadult if withadult == "yes" output "allowed" riders = riders + 1 else output "not allowed" end if else
	(c) (d) (d)	(c) (ii) (d) (i) (d) (iv)	(c) (ii) • Linear (search)  (d) (i) 1 mark per bullet to max 2 • Flag / record whether a swap has taken place or not • checked as condition to decide whether to repeat  (d) (ii) 1 mark per bullet to max 2 • Swaps • values of queuesize[p] and queuesize[p+1] • when queuesize[p] is larger than queuesize[p+1] • using a temporary variable //doesn't overwrite numbers //explanation of process  (e) 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (e) 2 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (f) 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (e) 3 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (f) 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (g) 2 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (h) 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort) •	(c) (ii) • Linear (search)  (d) (i) 1 mark per bullet to max 2 • Flag / record whether a swap has taken place or not • checked as condition to decide whether to repeat  (d) (ii) 1 mark per bullet to max 2 • Swaps •values of queuesize[p] and queuesize[p+1] •when queuesize[p] is larger than queuesize[p+1] • using a temporary variable //doesn't overwrite numbers //explanation of process  (d) (iv) 1 mark per bullet to max 2. • Insertion (sort) • Merge (sort)  (e) 1 mark per bullet to max 8. • Input height • Accepts riders < / > /= 120 with suitable message • Rejects riders < / = 120 with suitable message • Checks if height between 120 and 140 • If True, input whether accompanied • Suitable output message for True AND False • Correctly counts number of riders in all cases of being allowed to ride (do not penalise candidates for counting or not counting accompanying adults) • Attempt to loop based on 8 riders allowed  Some checks for rider height may be implicit (e.g. using ELSE after checking other heights). If the answer logically works to produce the correct output, it should be marked as correct.  Loop will almost certainly be condition controlled (VHILE/DO UNTIL) to gain BPS; count controlled

# <mark>2018</mark>

Que	Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
4	(c)	(i)	<ul> <li>1 mark per bullet, max 4.</li> <li>List split into individual elements (may be done over several steps or just as a starting point)</li> <li>Merge individual elements into sorted lists of size 2</li> <li>Merge lists of size 2 into sorted lists of size 4</li> <li>Merge lists of size 4 into final sorted list.</li> </ul>	4	Candidates can describe how the merge sort would work rather than showing output values at each stage.  Ignore intermediate steps.  Do not give final mark for simply showing the list sorted. Must have the (correct) idea of where it being merged from previous lists.  Candidates' answers describing / showing other sorting algorithms (e.g. bubble sort, insertion sort) are worth 0 marks.  [POB12] [BAC97] [FLY77] [JAV16] [TAL86] [AND18] [ZAR09] [HOP86] [BAC97 POE12], [FLY77] JAV16], [AND18 HOP86 TAL86], [HOP86 ZAR09] [BAC97 FLY77 JAV16, POE12], [AND18 HOP86 TAL86, ZAR09]
4	(c)	(ii)	mark per bullet, max 2.     Faster/quicker (to sort)    for large lists // for lists that are more unordered     Has a consistent running time (for a lists of same length)    doesn't depend on how ordered original list is	2	Accept (correct) reference to big O notation for 2 <sup>nd</sup> mark on either mark point although this is beyond scope of GCSE specification.  Allow "more efficient" for BOD on first bullet point.
8			Initialisation of A, B and C as zero.     Allows input (of anything) from the user     Incrementing A, B and C depending on input     Repeats bullet points 2 and 3    stopping only when "END" is entered     Prints out all 3 individual counts and prints calculated total count	6	Example algorithm  acount = 0 bcount= 0 ccount= 0 vote = "" while vote != "END" vote = input("enter A, B or C") if vote == "A" then acount = acount + 1 elseif vote == "B" then bcount = bcount + 1 elseif vote == "C" then ccount = ccount + 1 end if endwhile print acount print bcount print acount print acount print acount

# <mark>2017</mark>

e.g. num x = whi  x = end e.g. num num	<pre>If the guess is lower than stored number, outputs higher (or similar)  . using while loop m = 50 // (could be a random number) = 0 ile x &lt; 10 input guess if guess == num then</pre>	

#### <mark>2015</mark>

b	(Age < 20 is FALSE so) <u>Dose = 2</u> (Gender = "Female" is FALSE) so Dose = Dose * 0.5     therefore Dose = 1	3	Award mark for first bullet only if 2 clearly refers to the dose.  Allow follow through error for second and third bullet. i.e. if candidate has the wrong dose they can still get a mark for Dose * 0.5 and for doing this calculation correctly. (Typically 3 * 0.5 = 1.5 which is therefore worth 2 marks)
С	<ul> <li>(Age is less than 20 = true) so Dose = 0.1 * Age</li> <li>1.9</li> <li>[isPregnant AND Dose &gt; 1.5] is TRUE</li> <li>Dose = 1.5</li> </ul>	4	Candidates do not need to refer to dose, provided it is clear that they are performing the correct operation.  For 3 <sup>rd</sup> bullet it is sufficient if the candidate has shown that both isPregnant and (Dose > 1.5) are TRUE (This may not be at the same point in the answer and they do not need to explicitly state the result of the AND).