



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

Computing

COMP1/PM/VBN

Unit 1 Problem Solving, Programming, Data Representation
and Practical Exercise

Preliminary Material

A copy of this Preliminary Material will appear on the GCE Computing front page on the AQA Website on Monday 1 March 2010. It will include the Skeleton Program as issued by AQA.

A copy of the Preliminary Material, including any amendments to the Skeleton Program made by the Head of Computing and approved by AQA, must be given to candidates by their centre on or after Thursday 1 April 2010.

Information for Candidates

- This Preliminary Material comprises
 - Instructions to Candidates and a
 - Skeleton Program for **VB.NET** which your teacher will supply.You must **only** use the version of the Skeleton Program supplied by your teacher.
- Candidates are advised to familiarise themselves with the Preliminary Material before the examination.
- You must **not** take any copy of the Preliminary Material or any other material into the examination room. A second copy of the Preliminary Material will be given to you in the examination. Your teacher will also provide you with access electronically to the Skeleton Program at the start of the examination.

Instructions to Candidates

The question paper is divided into four sections and a recommendation is given to candidates as to how long to spend on each section. Below are the recommended timings for the 2010 examination.

Section A

You are advised to spend no more than **35 minutes** on this section.

Questions will examine the specification content **not** specific to the *Preliminary Material*.

Section B

You are advised to spend no more than **20 minutes** on this section.

You will be asked to create a new program **not** related to the *Preliminary Material* or Skeleton Program.

Section C

You are advised to spend no more than **15 minutes** on this section.

Questions will refer to the *Preliminary Material* and the Skeleton Program, but will not require programming.

Section D

You are advised to spend no more than **50 minutes** on this section.

Questions will use the Skeleton Program and the *Preliminary Material*.

Electronic Answer Document

Answers to all questions must be written into the word processed document made available to you at the start of the examination and referred to in the question paper as the Electronic Answer Document.

Preparation for the Examination

For your programming language you should ensure that you are familiar with this *Preliminary Material*, including the Skeleton Program.

'Noughts and Crosses Game'

The **Skeleton Program** in this Preliminary Material is for a program based on the two-player game of 'Noughts and Crosses'.

When playing Noughts and Crosses players take turns to place a symbol on the board. The board is a 3x3 grid, which is initially empty. One player uses the symbol 'X', the other the symbol 'O'. Players are only allowed to place a symbol in an empty position on the board. The aim of the game is to be the first person to get three of their symbols in a line – a line of symbols can be either in a row, in a column or along a diagonal. Three winning board positions for the player using the symbol 'X' are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1

X	X	X
	O	
	O	

O	X	
O	X	O
	X	

	O	X
	X	O
X	O	

In the **Skeleton Program** players use row and column coordinates to specify where they wish their 'X' or 'O' symbol to be placed. First, they specify the x coordinate – this indicates which column they want; then they specify the y coordinate – this indicates which row they want. **Figure 2** shows part of a game. The first board, (a), is the initial position, the second board, (b), shows what would happen if the 'X' player enters coordinates of (1,3).

Figure 2

(a)			
	1	2	3
1			
2			
3			

(b)			
	1	2	3
1			
2			
3	X		

The game finishes when a player gets three of their symbol in a line or there are no empty cells on the grid. If the grid is full but neither player has a line of three symbols then the game is drawn. After the last move the result of the game is displayed.

Turn over ►

Outline Design

The Structured English description of an algorithm for playing one game is as follows.

```
SET number of moves TO 0
Clear Board
Display Board
IF starting symbol IS EQUAL TO player one's symbol
    THEN OUTPUT message saying player one is going to make a move first
    ELSE OUTPUT message saying player two is going to make a move first
ENDIF
SET current symbol TO starting symbol
DO
    DO
        Get move coordinates
        Check if move is valid
        IF NOT valid move
            THEN OUTPUT invalid move message
        ENDIF
    UNTIL valid move
    Make move
    Display Board
    Check if game has been won
    INCREMENT number of moves BY 1
    IF NOT game has been won
        THEN
            IF number of moves IS EQUAL TO 9
                THEN game has been drawn
                ELSE change current symbol
            ENDIF
        ENDIF
    UNTIL game has been won OR game has been drawn
OUTPUT result of game
```

Variables

The main variables used are as follows.

Identifier	Data Type	Purpose
NoOfMoves	Integer	Used to keep track of how many moves have been made in the game so far ie how many positions in the board have a symbol in them
CurrentSymbol	Char	Used to indicate the symbol being used by the player whose turn it currently is - 'X' or 'O'
Board	Array[1..3,1..3] Of Char	A two-dimensional array used to indicate which symbol, if any, is currently in each position on the 3x3 grid.

Notes

The programming language used to code the game will determine the letter case for each identifier, and so may not match exactly the identifiers shown in the table above.

Your chosen programming language may use arrays with a lower bound value of 0. If so, array cells with indices of 0 are not used.

END OF INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Module Module1

```
'Skeleton Program code for the AQA COMP1 Summer 2010 examination  
'this code should be used in conjunction with the Preliminary Materials  
'written by the AQA COMP1 Programmer Team  
'developed in the Visual Studio 2008 (Console Mode) programming environment (VB.NET)
```

```
Dim Board(3, 3) As Char  
Dim PlayerOneName As String  
Dim PlayerTwoName As String  
Dim PlayerOneScore As Single  
Dim PlayerTwoScore As Single  
Dim XCoord As Integer  
Dim YCoord As Integer  
Dim NoOfMoves As Integer  
Dim ValidMove As Boolean  
Dim GameHasBeenWon As Boolean  
Dim GameHasBeenDrawn As Boolean  
Dim CurrentSymbol As Char  
Dim StartSymbol As Char  
Dim PlayerOneSymbol As Char  
Dim PlayerTwoSymbol As Char  
Dim Answer As Char
```

```
Sub Main()  
    Randomize()  
    Console.WriteLine("What is the name of player one? ")  
    PlayerOneName = Console.ReadLine()  
    Console.WriteLine("What is the name of player two? ")  
    PlayerTwoName = Console.ReadLine()  
    Console.WriteLine()  
    PlayerOneScore = 0  
    PlayerTwoScore = 0  
    Do 'Choose player one's symbol  
        Console.WriteLine(PlayerOneName & " what symbol do you wish to use, X or O? ")  
        PlayerOneSymbol = Console.ReadLine()  
        Console.WriteLine()
```

```

If Not (PlayerOneSymbol = "X" Or PlayerOneSymbol = "O") Then
    Console.WriteLine("Symbol to play must be uppercase X or O")
    Console.WriteLine()
End If
Loop Until PlayerOneSymbol = "X" Or PlayerOneSymbol = "O"
If PlayerOneSymbol = "X" Then
    PlayerTwoSymbol = "O"
Else
    PlayerTwoSymbol = "X"
End If
StartSymbol = GetWhoStarts()
Do 'Play a game
    NoOfMoves = 0
    GameHasBeenDrawn = False
    GameHasBeenWon = False
    ClearBoard(Board)
    Console.WriteLine()
    DisplayBoard(Board)
    If StartSymbol = PlayerOneSymbol Then
        Console.WriteLine(PlayerOneName & " starts playing " & StartSymbol)
    Else
        Console.WriteLine(PlayerTwoName & " starts playing " & StartSymbol)
    End If
    Console.WriteLine()
    CurrentSymbol = StartSymbol
    Do 'Play until a player wins or the game is drawn
        Do 'Get a valid move
            GetMoveCoordinates(XCoord, YCoord)
            ValidMove = CheckValidMove(XCoord, YCoord, Board)
            If Not ValidMove Then Console.WriteLine("Coordinates invalid, please try again")
        Loop Until ValidMove
        Board(XCoord, YCoord) = CurrentSymbol
        DisplayBoard(Board)
        GameHasBeenWon = CheckXOrOHasWon(Board)
        NoOfMoves = NoOfMoves + 1
    If Not GameHasBeenWon Then

```

```

If NoOfMoves = 9 Then 'Check if maximum number of allowed moves has been reached
    GameHasBeenDrawn = True
Else
    If CurrentSymbol = "X" Then
        CurrentSymbol = "O"
    Else
        CurrentSymbol = "X"
    End If
End If

Loop Until GameHasBeenWon Or GameHasBeenDrawn
If GameHasBeenWon Then ' Update scores and display result
    If PlayerOneSymbol = CurrentSymbol Then
        Console.WriteLine(PlayerOneName & " congratulations you win!")
        PlayerOneScore = PlayerOneScore + 1
    Else
        Console.WriteLine(PlayerTwoName & " congratulations you win!")
        PlayerTwoScore = PlayerTwoScore + 1
    End If
Else
    Console.WriteLine("A draw this time!")
End If

Console.WriteLine()
Console.WriteLine(PlayerOneName & " your score is: " & PlayerOneScore)
Console.WriteLine(PlayerTwoName & " your score is: " & PlayerTwoScore)
Console.WriteLine()
If StartSymbol = PlayerOneSymbol Then
    StartSymbol = PlayerTwoSymbol
Else
    StartSymbol = PlayerOneSymbol
End If

Console.Write("Another game Y/N?")
Answer = Console.ReadLine()

Loop Until Answer = "N" Or Answer = "n"
End Sub

```



```

Sub DisplayBoard(ByVal Board(,) As Char)
    Dim Row As Integer
    Dim Column As Integer
    Console.WriteLine(" | 1 2 3 ")
    Console.WriteLine("---+-----")
    For Row = 1 To 3
        Console.Write(Row & " | ")
        For Column = 1 To 3
            Console.Write(Board(Column, Row) & " ")
        Next
        Console.WriteLine()
    Next
    Console.WriteLine()
End Sub

Sub ClearBoard(ByRef Board(,) As Char)
    Dim Row As Integer
    Dim Column As Integer
    For Row = 1 To 3
        For Column = 1 To 3
            Board(Column, Row) = " "
        Next
    Next
End Sub

Sub GetMoveCoordinates(ByRef XCoordinate As Integer, ByRef YCoordinate As Integer)
    Console.Write("Enter x coordinate: ")
    XCoordinate = Console.ReadLine()
    Console.Write("Enter y coordinate: ")
    YCoordinate = Console.ReadLine()
    Console.WriteLine()
End Sub

Function CheckValidMove(ByVal XCoordinate As Integer, ByVal YCoordinate As Integer, _
    ByVal Board(,) As Char)
    Dim ValidMove As Boolean

```

```

ValidMove = True
'Check x coordinate is valid
If XCoordinate < 1 Or XCoordinate > 3 Then ValidMove = False
CheckValidMove = ValidMove
End Function

Function CheckXOrOHasWon(ByVal Board(,) As Char) As Boolean
    Dim Row As Integer
    Dim Column As Integer
    Dim XOrOHasWon As Boolean
    XOrOHasWon = False
    For Column = 1 To 3
        If Board(Column, 1) = Board(Column, 2) And Board(Column, 2) = Board(Column, 3) Then
            And Board(Column, 2) <> " " Then XOrOHasWon = True
        End If
    Next
    For Row = 1 To 3
        If Board(1, Row) = Board(2, Row) And Board(2, Row) = Board(3, Row) Then
            And Board(2, Row) <> " " Then XOrOHasWon = True
        End If
    Next
    CheckXOrOHasWon = XOrOHasWon
End Function

Function GetWhoStarts() As Char
    Dim RandomNo As Integer
    Dim WhoStarts As Char
    RandomNo = Rnd() * 100
    If RandomNo Mod 2 = 0 Then
        WhoStarts = "X"
    Else
        WhoStarts = "O"
    End If
    GetWhoStarts = WhoStarts
End Function
End Module

```