



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2024
Computer Science
Sections A & B
Ordinary Level

Wednesday 22 May Morning 9:30 – 11:00

130 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

For Examiner use only								
Section	Question	Mark	Section	Question	Mark	Section	Question	Mark
A	1		A	7		B	13	
	2			8			14	
	3			9			15	
	4			10		Section B Total:		
	5			11		C	16	
	6			12		Section C Total:		
Section A Total:						Total:		

Instructions

There are **three** sections in this examination. Section A and B appear in this booklet. Section C is in a separate booklet that will be provided for the computer-based element.

Section A	Short Answer Questions	Attempt any nine questions All questions carry equal marks	54 marks
Section B	Long Questions	Attempt any two questions All questions carry equal marks	76 marks
Section C	Programming	Answer all question parts	80 marks

Calculators may **not** be used during this section of the examination.

The superintendent will give you a copy of page 78 (Logic gates) of the *Formulae and Tables* booklet on request. You are **not** allowed to bring your own copy into the examination.

Write your answers for Section A and Section B in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.

Answer any **nine** questions.

Question 1

State the output from the following Python program in the box below.

```
1 x = 9
2 y = 3
3
4 print(x + y)
5 print(x * y)
6 print(x / y)
```

Question 2

In computer science four bits of binary data is known as a 'nibble'.

(a) What is the largest binary number that can be represented by a nibble?

(b) Convert the binary number from **part (a)** above into a decimal value.



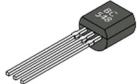
Question 3

- (a) Choose the appropriate electronic component from the list below and place it in Column B to match the correct component image in Column A.

Resistor

Transistor

Capacitor

Column A Component Image	Column B Component Name
	
	
	

- (b) Select any **one** of these electronic components and explain its purpose.

Component:
Explain:

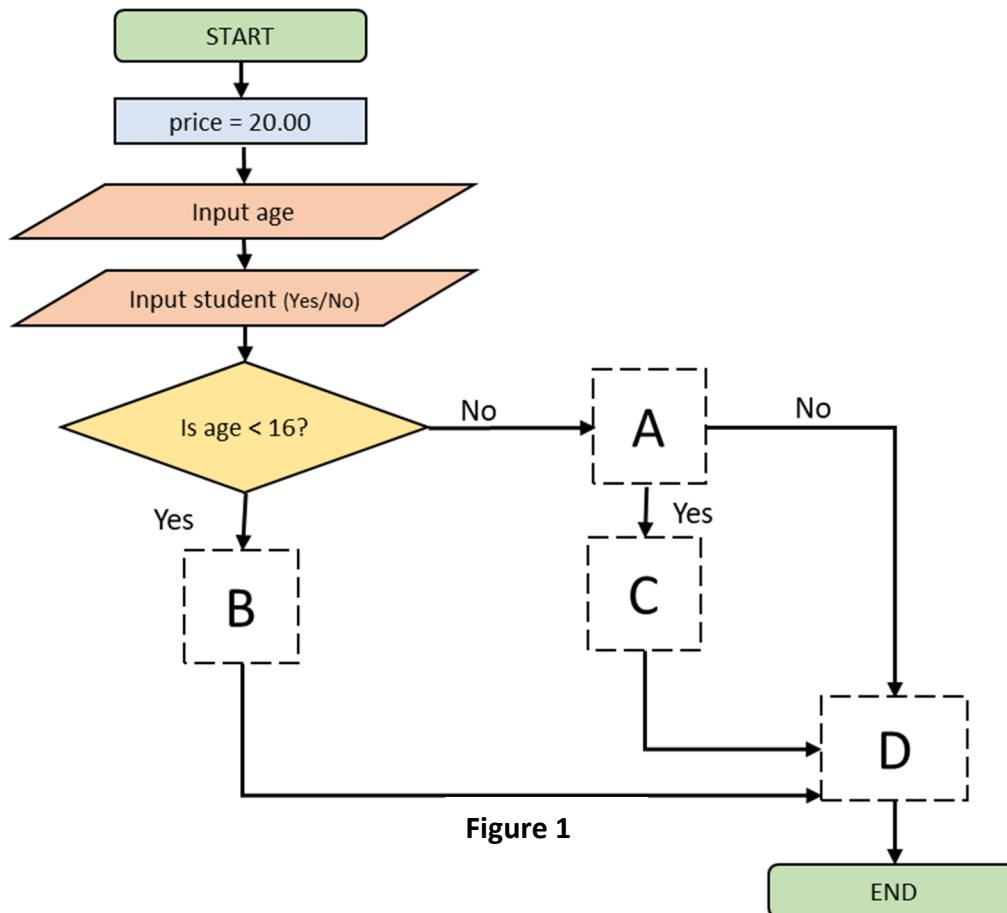
Question 4

HTTP stands for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. HTTP is an important protocol in terms of networks and internet. Explain the purpose of this protocol.

Question 5

There are three different ticket prices available for attending a concert. A full price adult ticket costs €20. Children under 16 receive a 20% discount. Anyone aged 16 to 21, who is also a student, receive a 10% discount.

The flowchart for this algorithm is shown in **Figure 1** below with some information missing.

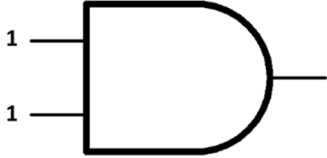
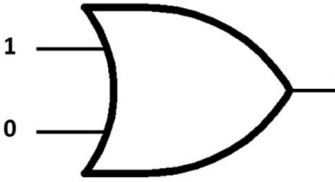
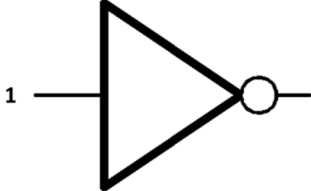


Select the appropriate letter from the flowchart and enter it in Column B in the table below to match it to the correct statement in Column A.

Column A Statement	Column B Flowchart Letter (A, B, C or D)
PRINT(price)	
Is age < 21 AND student = "yes"?	
price = price – (20% of price)	
price = price – (10% of price)	

Question 6

Three different logic gates with inputs are shown in Column A in the table below. For each logic gate in Column A enter the output, either 0 or 1, in Column B.

Column A Logic Gate	Column B Output (0 or 1)
	
	
	

Question 7

Jack has been selected as a project manager for a school project where a group are creating a student wellbeing app. List **three** specific tasks that a project manager would be responsible for on this project.

Task 1:
Task 2:
Task 3:

Question 8

Examine the incomplete Python program below and answer the questions that follow.

```
1 num1 = int(input("Enter first number: "))
2 num2 = int(input("Enter second number: "))
3 if num1 > num2:
4     print(num1, "is greater")
5 elif num2 > num1:
6     print(num2, "is greater")
7 else:
8
```

(a) Why is the `int` function used in lines 1 and 2?

(b) What is an appropriate `print` statement that could be entered in line 8?

--

Question 9

Drones are an example of a computing technology that can have a positive and negative impact on society. Explain **one** positive and **one** negative impact of drone technology on society.



Positive:
Negative:

Question 10

The data set below shows the raw data collected from a school survey on how teachers travel to work.

Name	Distance (Km)	Driver's License (Y/N)	Mode of Transport
Mr. Murray	3	Y	Cycle
Mrs. Woods	15	yes	Car
Mr. Murphy	23	Y	
Ms. Jones	340	N	Walk
Bn Uí Fhlanagáin	11	N	Bus
Mr. Murray	3	Y	Cycle
Ms. O'Neill	-18	Y	Car
Mrs. Lavery	4	Y	Walk

You want to use this data as part of a computer science project. List **three** issues with the data in the data set.

1.
2.
3.

Question 11

Provide **one** example of a digital input and **one** example of an analogue input on an embedded system you have used, such as those shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2

Digital input:
Analogue input:

Question 12

A teacher has asked you to design a website to capture information for a school trip. The teacher has provided you with the user interface mockup shown in **Figure 3** below.

School Trip 2024

Student Name:

Year Group:

Contact Number:

Contact Email:

Permission Slip:

Figure 3

Suggest **three** possible data validation methods that could be applied to the form to try and eliminate any input errors.

1.	
2.	
3.	

There is no examination material on this page

Answer any **two** questions.

Question 13

- (a) The pseudo code below shows the step-by-step process that a machine follows. The machine is used in a medical lab to repeatedly shake bottles.

The machine reads the program line by line. It always reads one line and then executes it immediately. If the line contains the command 'go to X', the machine jumps to line X and continues reading and executing.

1	set A to 0
2	set B to FALSE
3	add 1 to A
4	go to 7
5	if A equals 60 go to 9
6	set A to 0
7	add 1 to A
8	go to 3
9	shake the bottle A times
10	set B to TRUE
11	end

- (i) A and B are both variables. What is a variable?

- (ii) Choose suitable data types for the variables A and B.

A:
B:

- (iii) In lines 1 and 2 in this program the variables are initialised. Explain the term "initialised" in relation to variables.

This question continues on the next page.

- (iv)** This program has a conditional statement. On what line number is the conditional statement?

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- (v)** This program enters an “infinite loop”. Explain this term with reference to the code.

- (vi)** The infinite loop in the program above is an example of a “logic error”. In programming, what is the difference between a logic error and a syntax error?

- (b)** The bottles are numbered and are stored electronically in a list. Below is the list of the bottle numbers.

12	5	59	23	7	42	60	19	67	31
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	----	----	----

- (i)** Why would a programmer use a linear search to find a specific bottle from this list?

- (ii) The following pseudo code is a basic implementation of a linear search.

```
1 for each element in the list
2     if element equal target value then
3         return its index
4 if element is not found then
5     print "Value not found"
```

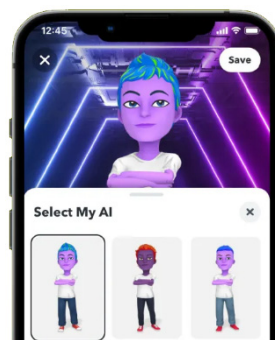
Demonstrate the steps to show how bottle number 23 would be found in the list of bottles using this pseudo code.

This image shows a completely blank white rectangular area enclosed by a thin black frame. There are no markings, text, or illustrations present.

- (iii) Explain **one** disadvantage of the linear search algorithm when searching large data sets.

Question 14

In April 2023, Snapchat began rolling out a new feature called My AI. This experimental artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot can carry out tasks including responding to queries, giving advice, and organising travel. This is an example of the increasing influence of AI in our daily lives.



(a)

- (i) List **three** other examples of the use of AI in our day-to-day lives.

1.
2.
3.

- (ii) State whether each of the following statements is true or false by putting a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

	True	False
Artificial intelligence and machine learning are exactly the same thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are some jobs that could potentially be replaced by AI in the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AI algorithms can make decisions based on patterns and data without being programmed for each single decision.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AI always makes fair and unbiased decisions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AI technology is commonly used in self-driving vehicles to help them make decisions on the road.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (iii) Artificial intelligence applications such as My AI and ChatGPT use machine learning models that have to be trained. Explain what it means to train a machine learning model.

(b) When creating a piece of software, the quality of the user experience is an important design consideration.

(i) Universal design should be used to ensure a good level of user experience. Describe **two** principles of universal design that might be considered in the design of apps such as Snapchat's My AI.

1.
2.

(ii) An article on the RTE website, published in April 2023, began with the following:

Safeguarding concerns over the introduction by Snapchat of its own artificial intelligence chatbot have been raised by CyberSafeKids, which claims the service has not been properly tested.

Aengus Cox, RTE, 30 April 2023

Explain **one** risk of My AI to children if it has not been properly tested.

(iii) Snapchat conducted user acceptance testing (UAT) on My AI before its full release. Explain UAT?

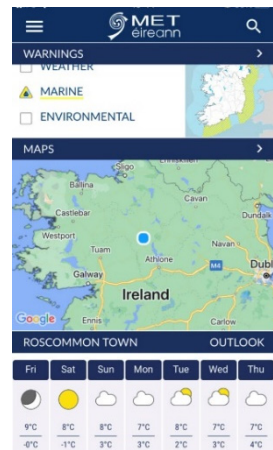
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- (c) In September 2023, it was announced that teacher-based assessment of Leaving Certificate coursework would be postponed. The reason for this was due to “accelerated evolution and growth in generative AI”.

Discuss the positive and negative impact that AI could have for students in school.

Question 15

- (a) The Met Éireann app allows the Irish public to keep up to date with weather conditions across Ireland. Weather forecasts are based on predictions which use models and simulations. The simulations allow the app to alert the public about dangers such as storms, floods and snow.
- (i) Provide **one** other example of a computer simulation and state the benefit of using such a simulation.



Simulation example:
Benefit:

- (ii) The first time that Met Éireann provided weather forecasts for the public was in 1948. Name and explain **two** important computing developments that have taken place since then that allow us to be informed of weather information instantly.

Name 1:
Explain 1:
Name 2:
Explain 2:

This question continues on the next page.

- (b) In the design phase of the development of the app Met Éireann may have created a data table such as the one shown below. Fill in the missing data types in Column C in the table. The first row has been completed for you.

Column A Name	Column B Description	Column C Data type
Rainfall	Amount of rainfall in mm. Not a decimal number.	Integer
Temperature	Should accept a decimal number	
Province	Any one of the following: [Leinster, Munster, Connacht, Ulster]	
Wind speed	Should not be a decimal number	
Issue weather warning	Yes or No	
Weather description	Written description of today's weather e.g. It will be warm and sunny today	

- (c) When designing an app such as this it is important to consider ways to make the app more accessible. List **three** features that could be included to ensure increased accessibility for all users.

1.	
2.	
3.	

- (d) Met Éireann will issue a yellow, orange or red wind warning based on the criteria in the table below.

Yellow Wind Warning	Orange Wind Warning	Red Wind Warning
Speed between 90 and 110km/h	Speed between 111 and 130km/h	Speed greater than 130km/h

- (i) Based on this information create an algorithm, using a flowchart or pseudo code, that will calculate if a warning should issue and if so what colour the warning should be.

- (ii) Which of the following is the best set of data values to test your algorithm with? Select your answer by putting a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

[89, 90, 100, 110, 111, 129, 130, 131] ☐

[20, 70, 80, 90, 95, 135, 145, 165] ☐

[19, 60, 65, 115, 116, 138, 139, 140] ☐

Justify your answer below.

Space for extra work.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

[illegible]

Space for extra work.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

[illegible]

Space for extra work.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

[illegible]

Space for extra work.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

[illegible]

Acknowledgements

Images

Image on page 7: <https://aerosystemswest.com/product/asw-heavy-lift-quadcopter-industrial-drone/>

Image 1 on page 8: <https://makelearn.org/2019/02/07/exporting-microbit-sensor-data/>

Image 2 on page 8: <https://ie.farnell.com/raspberry-pi/rpi3-modbp/sbc-board-raspberry-pi-3-model/dp/2842228>

Image on page 14: <https://techcrunch.com/2023/04/24/snapchat-sees-spike-in-1-star-reviews-as-users-pan-the-my-ai-feature-calling-for-its-removal/>

Texts

Text on page 15: <https://www.rte.ie/news/2023/0430/1380005-snapchat-ai/>

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Computer Science – Sections A & B

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