COMPUTER STUDIES

ADVANCED LEVEL

INTRODUCTION

The assessment of this subject is based on the Computer Studies (S6-7) Curriculum and Assessment Guide jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates have to refer to the sections on the 'Curriculum Framework' and the 'Learning and Teaching' in this Guide for the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they are required to demonstrate in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this assessment are to evaluate candidates'

1. knowledge and understanding of the organization and architecture of computer systems and the inter-relationship among hardware, software and data;

2. knowledge and skills in using a range of applications software effectively, ethically and discriminatory to support information processing and problem solving;

3. understanding and experience of the ways information are logically and sensibly organized, processed and manipulated by a computer;

4. knowledge and skills in data communications and network development;

5. understanding of the systematic methods of problem formulation, solution design and selection, implementation of solutions, testing and documenting solutions to problems; and

6. appreciation and appraisal of the social and ethical issues pertaining to computer technologies.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT

1.   The examination will consist of two written papers and a school-based assessment component.   The allocation of marks and the duration are as follows:

Paper 1	40%	3 hours
Paper 2	40%	3 hours
Paper 3	20%	School-based assessment

2.   In Paper 1 and Paper 2, there will be two sections. Section A (40% of the paper mark) will consist of short questions. Section B (60% of the paper mark) will consist of three long questions. All questions are to be attempted. Paper 1 will be identical to AS Computer Applications Paper 1.

3.   Paper 3 is a school-based assessment (SBA) component in which candidates are required to complete an individual project assignment.

4.   Candidates choose an assignment from a list issued by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority during the year before the examination.   They are required to produce a report which will demonstrate their ability to analyse a problem and so identify requirements, and to make appropriate use of knowledge in the modules in providing solutions which they will design, implement, test and evaluate.   The assignments will be assessed continuously and marked internally by school teachers, and the assessment will be moderated by the chief examiner.

5.   A list of reserved words and functions will be distributed to participating schools in October every year and private candidates at the time they apply to sit the examination.

6.   Private candidates must have previous SBA marks to enter the examination.

The regulations, guidelines and methods of assessment stipulated in the SBA are given in the Guide to AL Computer Studies Paper 3 (SBA) issued by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority to schools.

Schools entering candidates for the subject examination for the first time must apply for approval in writing before 1st June 2009 to:

Manager (AL)
School Examinations and Assessment Division
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
12/F, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

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