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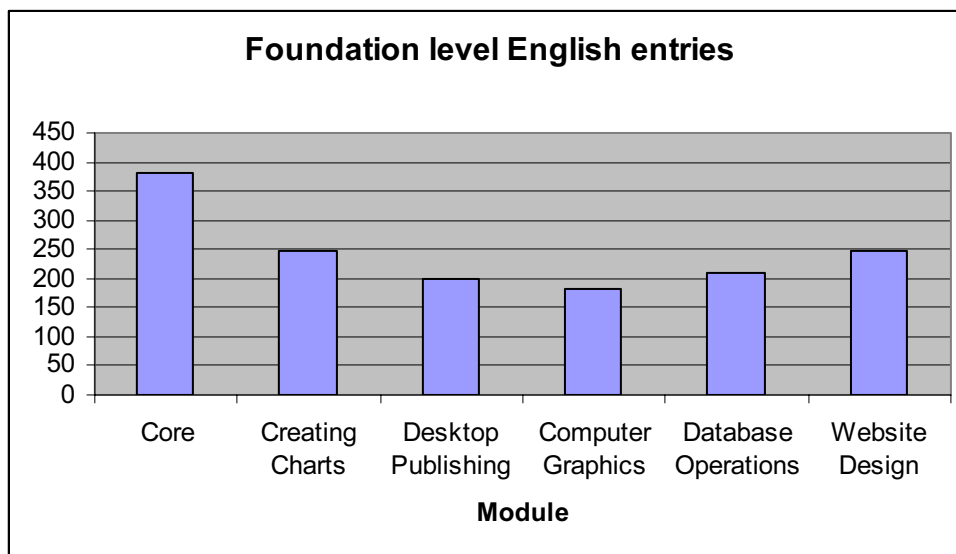


ICT FOUNDATION LEVEL

General comments

Again the scheme has shown a steady increase in entries with 8403 in 2003-4 and 8480 in 2004-5. The award was available in English, Spanish and Greek. The total number of entries in English showed a 6% increase and was up to 6720, of which 1471 entries were at Foundation Level, 3771 were at Standard Level and 1478 at Advanced Level. This indicates a significant increase in numbers at all levels. The entries in Spanish have shown an increase on the previous year, with a total of 624 entries during this year.

This level comprised a Core module and five enhancement modules.



The overall pass rate for these modules was in line with last year with candidates showing a good understanding of the subject knowledge and practical skills. The quality of work received from Centres in all modules was generally very high.

Paper 5181

Core

The overall standard of entries for this module was excellent. The most common errors found this year included:

- The failure to produce formulae printouts from the spreadsheet. The most common package used was Excel and many candidates did not know how to use Tools, Options and tick the Formulas box prior to printing.
- The loss of data integrity during sorts. Many candidates failed to highlight all the data prior to sorting by a specified field which meant that the data became irrelevant to the task in hand.
- The failure to correct the spelling errors introduced into the source file for this purpose.

Paper 5182
Creating Charts

The overall standard of entries for this module was excellent. The most common errors included:

- Selecting the wrong data series, especially when the data is not in adjacent rows or columns.
- Careless errors in the labelling of the charts or axis, sometimes where candidates are allowing the software (wizards) to generate the charts, without consideration of the requirements of the question paper.

Paper 5183
Desktop Publishing

The overall standard of entries for this module was high. The most common errors included:

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).
- The failure to place and resize graphics as specified.
- The failure to understand the generic terms serif, and sans-serif. Many candidates tried to locate these as font styles rather than understanding that fonts such as Times New Roman contain short strokes or serifs on each letter, and that sans-serif fonts, are without these.
- The failure to align text as specified.
- The failure to set the page orientation as specified.
- The failure to set up all four margins as specified.

Paper 5184
Computer Graphics

The overall standard of entries for this module was very high. The most common errors included:

- The ability to maintain a graphic images aspect ratio (some candidates had distorted images as they tried to resize the image/s).
- The failure to copy, manipulate and paste elements of the image, several candidates redrew and then resized some images rather than copying and pasting as instructed on the question paper.

Paper 5185
Database Operations

The overall standard of entries for this module was high. The most common errors found in this module included:

- The failure to insert record/s into the database.
- The failure to use the given fieldnames when importing the .csv file into the database software.
- The failure to select the correct search criteria.
- The failure to edit the data as specified in the question paper.
- The failure to show all fields, or only specified fields in the printouts as required by the particular question.
- The failure to sort the required data as specified.

Paper 5186
Website Design

The high standards set last year were again maintained by this year's entries. The most common errors included:

- The failure to set an anchor and hyperlink to link back to the top of the page as specified in the question paper.
- The failure to create the hyperlinks either internally or to the Hothouse website.
- The failure to print out the html source code.
- The failure to direct the routing for graphics images to the correct place, leaving all the web pages devoid of graphics.