



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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## COMPUTER SCIENCE

9618/21

Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

May/June 2022

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
- Calculators must **not** be used in this paper.

### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 75.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- No marks will be awarded for using brand names of software packages or hardware.
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

This document has **20** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Refer to the **insert** for the list of pseudocode functions and operators.

- 1 (a) A programmer draws a program flowchart to show the sequence of steps required to solve a problem.

Give the technical term for a sequence of steps that describe how to solve a problem.

..... **An algorithm** .....  
 ..... [1]

- (b) The table lists some of the variables used in a program.

- (i) Complete the table by writing the most appropriate data type for each variable.

Variable	Use of variable	Data type
Temp	Stores the average temperature	<b>REAL</b>
PetName	Stores the name of my pet	STRING
MyDOB	To calculate the number of days until my next birthday	DATE
LightOn	Stores state of light; light is only on or off	<b>BOOLEAN</b>

[4]

- (ii) One of the names used for a variable in the table in part 1(b)(i) is not an example of good practice.

Identify the variable and give a reason why it is **not** good practice to use that name.

Variable ... **Temp** .....

Reason ... **Name does not indicate what the variable is used for** .....

.....  
 .....

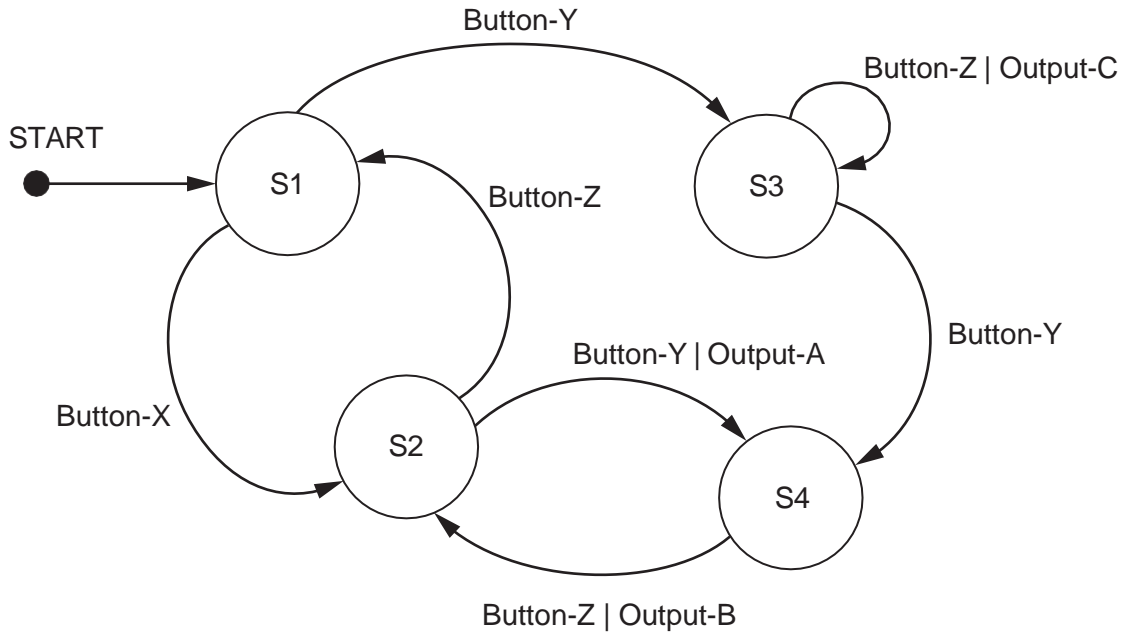
[2]

- (c) Complete the table by evaluating each expression.

Expression	Evaluation
INT((31 / 3) + 1)	<b>11</b>
MID(TO_UPPER("Version"), 4, 2)	"SI"
TRUE AND (NOT FALSE)	<b>TRUE</b>
NUM_TO_STR(27 MOD 3)	"0"

[4]

2 Examine the following state-transition diagram.



(a) Complete the table with reference to the diagram.

<b>Answer</b>	
The number of different inputs	3
The number of different outputs	3
The single input value that could result in S4	Button-Y

[3]

(b) The initial state is S1.

Complete the table to show the inputs, outputs and next states.

Input	Output	Next state
Button-Y		
	none	
Button-Z		S2
	none	

Input	Output	Next state
Button-Y	none	S3
Button-Y	none	S4
Button-Z	Output-B	S2
Button-Z	none	S1

[4]

3 The manager of a cinema wants a program to allow users to book seats. The cinema has several screens. Each screen shows a different film.

(a) Decomposition will be used to break the problem down into sub-problems.

Describe **three** program modules that could be used in the design.

Module 1 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

- Allows the user to search for films being shown // input name of film they want to see
- Allows the user to search for available seats
- Calculate cost of booking
- Book a given number of seats for a particular screening

Module 2 .....

.....  
.....  
.....

Module 3 .....

.....

..... [3]

(b) Two types of program modules may be used in the design of the program.

Identify the type of program module that should be used to return a value.

..... **Function** ..... [1]



- 4 A stack is created using a high-level language. Memory locations 200 to 207 are to be used to store the stack.

The following diagram represents the current state of the stack.

`TopOfStack` points to the last value added to the stack.

Stack		Pointer
Memory location	Value	
200		
201		
202		
203	'F'	← <code>TopOfStack</code>
204	'C'	
205	'D'	
206	'E'	
207	'H'	

- (a) Complete the following table by writing the answers.

	Answer
The value that has been on the stack for the longest time.	'H'
The memory location pointed to by <code>TopOfStack</code> if <b>three</b> POP operations are performed.	206

[2]

(b) The following diagram shows the current state of the stack:

Stack		Pointer
Memory location	Value	
200		
201		
202	'W'	← TopOfStack
203	'Y'	
204	'X'	
205	'Z'	
206	'N'	
207	'P'	

The following operations are performed:

POP  
 POP  
 PUSH 'A'  
 PUSH 'B'  
 POP  
 PUSH 'C'  
 PUSH 'D'

Complete the diagram to show the state of the stack **after** the operations have been performed.

Stack		Pointer
Memory location	Value	
200		
201		
202		
203		
204		
205		
206		
207		

Stack		Pointer
Memory location	Value	
200		
201	'D'	← TopOfStack
202	'C'	
203	'A'	
204	'X'	
205	'Z'	
206	'N'	
207	'P'	

5 Each line of a text file contains data organised into fixed-length fields as shown:

<Field 1><Field 2><Field 3>

An algorithm is required to search for the first instance of a given value of Field 2 and, if found, to output the corresponding values for Field 1 and Field 3.

Describe the algorithm needed.

Do **not** include pseudocode statements in your answer.

.....

- 1 Open file in read mode
- 2 Set up a conditional loop, repeating until the value is found or the EOF ( ) is reached
- 3 Read a line from the file in a loop
- 4 Extract Field 2
- 5 Description of how Field 2 could be extracted e.g. using substring function and lengths of Field 1 and Field 2
- 6 Compare extracted field with search value
- 7 If search value found, extract Field 1 and Field 3 and output them
- 8 Close the file after loop has finished

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[6]



6 (a) An algorithm will:

- output **each** integer value between 100 and 200 that ends with the digit 7, for example, 107
- output a final count of the number of values that are output.

Write pseudocode for this algorithm.

Any variables used must be declared.

```
..... DECLARE ThisInt, Count : INTEGER
..... Count ← 0
.....
..... FOR ThisInt ← 100 TO 200
.....     IF ThisInt MOD 10 = 7 THEN
.....         OUTPUT ThisInt
.....         Count ← Count + 1
.....     ENDIF
..... NEXT ThisInt
.....
..... OUTPUT Count
.....
```

**Alternative Solution:**

```
..... DECLARE ThisInt, Count : INTEGER
..... Count ← 0
.....
..... FOR ThisInt ← 107 TO 197 STEP 10
.....     OUTPUT ThisInt
.....     Count ← Count + 1
..... NEXT ThisInt
.....
..... OUTPUT Count
.....
```

[5]

(b) Study the following pseudocode.

```
CASE OF MySwitch
  1: ThisChar ← 'a'
  2: ThisChar ← 'y'
  3: ThisChar ← '7'
  OTHERWISE: ThisChar ← '*'
ENDCASE
```

Write pseudocode with the same functionality **without** using a CASE structure.

```
IF MySwitch = 1 THEN
  ThisChar ← 'a'
ELSE
  IF MySwitch = 2 THEN
    ThisChar ← 'y'
  ELSE
    IF MySwitch = 3 THEN
      ThisChar ← '7'
    ELSE
      ThisChar ← '*'
    ENDIF
  ENDIF
ENDIF
```

[4]

- 7 A string is a palindrome if it reads the same forwards as backwards.

The following strings are examples of palindromes:

"Racecar"  
 "madam"  
 "12344321"

Upper-case and lower-case characters need to be treated the same. For example, 'A' is equivalent to 'a'.

- (a) A function `IsPalindrome()` will take a string parameter. The function will return `TRUE` if the string is a palindrome and will return `FALSE` if the string is not a palindrome.

Write pseudocode for `IsPalindrome()`.

```

... FUNCTION IsPalindrome(InString : STRING) RETURNS BOOLEAN
...   DECLARE IsPal : BOOLEAN
...   DECLARE Index, Num : INTEGER
...   DECLARE CharA, CharB : CHAR
...
...   IsPal ← TRUE
...   Index ← 1
...
...   Num ← INT(LENGTH(InString) / 2)
...
...   WHILE Index <= Num AND IsPal = TRUE
...     CharA ← MID(InString, Index, 1)
...     CharB ← MID(InString, LENGTH(InString) - Index + 1,
...               1)
...     IF UCASE(CharA) <> UCASE(CharB) THEN
...       IsPal ← FALSE // RETURN FALSE
...     ENDIF
...     Index ← Index + 1
...   ENDWHILE
...
...   RETURN IsPal // RETURN TRUE
...
... ENDFUNCTION

```

.....

.....

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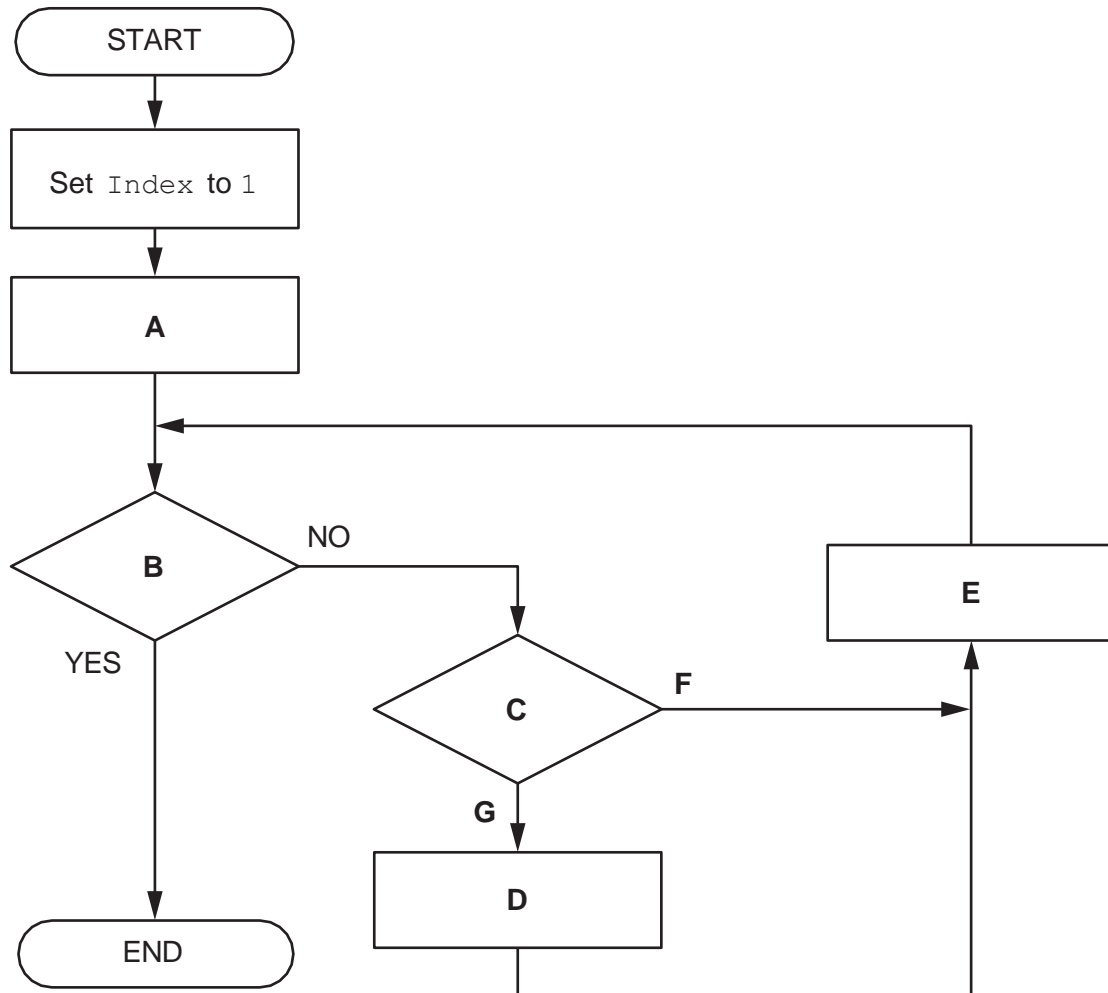
.....



(b) Strings may consist of several words separated by spaces.

For example, the string "never odd or even" becomes a palindrome if the spaces are removed.

The program flowchart represents an algorithm to produce a string `OutString` by removing all spaces from a string `InString`.



Complete the table by writing the text that should replace each of the labels **B**, **C**, **D**, **F** and **G**.

Note: the text may be written as a pseudocode statement.

Label	Text
A	Set <code>OutString</code> to ""
B	
C	
D	
E	Set <code>Index</code> to <code>Index + 1</code>
F	
G	

[4]

- 8 A program allows a user to save passwords used to login to websites. A stored password is inserted automatically when the user logs into the corresponding website.

A student is developing a program to generate a password. The password will be of a fixed format, consisting of **three groups of four** alphanumeric characters. The groups are separated by the hyphen character '-'.

An example of a password is: "FxAf-3haV-Tq49"

A global 2D array `Secret` of type `STRING` stores the passwords together with the website domain name where they are used. `Secret` contains 1000 elements organised as 500 rows by 2 columns.

Unused elements contain the empty string (""). These may occur anywhere in the array.

An example of a part of the array is:

Array element	Value
<code>Secret[27, 1]</code>	"www.thiswebsite.com"
<code>Secret[27, 2]</code>	"....."
<code>Secret[28, 1]</code>	"www.thatwebsite.com"
<code>Secret[28, 2]</code>	"....."

Note:

- For security, passwords are stored in an encrypted form, shown as "....." in the example.
- The passwords cannot be used without being decrypted.
- Assume that the encrypted form of a password will **not** be an empty string.

The programmer has started to define program modules as follows:

Module	Description
<code>RandomChar()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generates a single random character from within one of the following ranges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 'a' to 'z'</li> <li>◦ 'A' to 'Z'</li> <li>◦ '0' to '9'</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Returns the character</li> </ul>
<code>Encrypt()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes a password as a parameter of type string</li> <li>• Returns the encrypted form of the password as a string</li> </ul>
<code>Decrypt()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes an encrypted password as a parameter of type string</li> <li>• Returns the decrypted form of the password as a string</li> </ul>

For reference, relevant ASCII values are as follows:

Character range	ASCII range
'a' to 'z'	97 to 122
'A' to 'Z'	65 to 90
'0' to '9'	48 to 57



(b) A new module is defined as follows:

Module	Description
FindPassword()	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes a website domain name as a parameter of type string</li> <li>• Searches for the website domain name in the array <i>Secret</i></li> <li>• If the website domain name is found, the decrypted password is returned</li> <li>• If the website domain name is not found, a warning message is output, and an empty string is returned</li> </ul>

Write pseudocode for module `FindPassword()`.

Assume that modules `Encrypt()` and `Decrypt()` have already been written.

```

FUNCTION FindPassword(Name: STRING) RETURNS STRING
  DECLARE Index : INTEGER
  DECLARE Password : STRING

  Password ← ""
  Index ← 1

  WHILE Password = "" AND Index <= 500
    IF Secret[Index, 1] = Name THEN
      Password ← Decrypt(Secret[Index, 2])
    ELSE
      Index ← Index + 1
    ENDIF
  ENDWHILE

  IF Password = "" THEN
    OUTPUT "Domain name not found"
  ENDIF

  RETURN Password

ENDFUNCTION

```

[7]



- (c) The modules `Encrypt()` and `Decrypt()` are called from several places in the main program.

Identify a method that could have been used to test the main program before these modules were completed. Describe how this would work.

Method ..... Stub testing .....

Description .....

- A simple module is written to replace each of the modules.
- The simple module will return an expected value // will output a message to show they have been called

..... [3]

- (d) A validation function is written to check that the passwords generated are valid.

To be valid, each password must:

- be 14 characters long
- be organised as three groups of four case-sensitive alphanumeric characters. The groups are separated by hyphen characters
- not include any duplicated characters, except for the hyphen characters.

Note: lower-case and upper-case characters are not the same. For example, 'a' is not the same as 'A'.

Give **two** password strings that could be used to test different areas of the validation rules.

Password 1 ..... One mark for each password example that breaks **one** of the rules due to: .....  
 Password 2 ..... 

- Length too long // length too short
- Invalid character
- Incorrect grouping (including number of hyphens)
- Duplicated characters
 ..... [2]

- (e) The `RandomChar()` module is to be modified so that alphabetic characters are generated twice as often as numeric characters.

Describe how this might be achieved.

..... 

- Generate a random integer divisible by 3
- Split range into 1/3 and set as numeric
- Else alphabetic character
 .....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]





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