General comments

Overall, particularly for a debutant year for the Computer Science Advanced Subsidiary syllabus, there is ample room for improvement in the standard of the candidates' work.

Questions that required calculations or the understanding of code were answered well by most candidates. Candidates found questions that began with the command words 'describe' or 'explain' more challenging. If a question asks for a description answers need to include more detail, a single, brief statement is not enough for full credit.

This is a subject that requires precision and exactness in answers and candidates should be prepared or helped towards such goals.

Comments on specific questions

Question	Answer	Marks
1 (a)	This question was not well answered by most candidates as candidates only had slight ideas and therefore could not fully describe both a serial search and a binary search according to the syllabus specifications.	3
	Serial: One mark • Compares the elements of the array in order with the key element searched for	
	Binary: Two marks from the following Using a sorted list Divide the number of elements in half If the searched value is less than the value in the middle of the interval Search the first half Otherwise search the second half Repeat until value is found or not	
1(b)(i)	A sizeable number of candidates scored well for this question. However, tracing or dry running a given pseudocode still proved a concept that some candidates had not mastered well. Two marks each, One mark for correct answer, One mark for working 1 working e.g. found 0 i 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 key 5	4
1(b)(ii)	0 working e.g. found 0 i 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 key 10 Two marks	2
ווטוווי	6 10	2
1(c)(i)	One mark for first correct value, one all correct values 3 13 5 or 5	2
1(c)(ii)	3 1 Note: allow FT in the number of iterations	1
1(d)(i)	One mark for first correct value, one all correct values 3 13 21 5 21	2
1(d)(ii)	3 2 Note: allow FT in the number of iterations	1
1(e)	One mark from the following It takes less time to search You do not need to compare all values a binary search Fewer number of iterations in a binary search	1

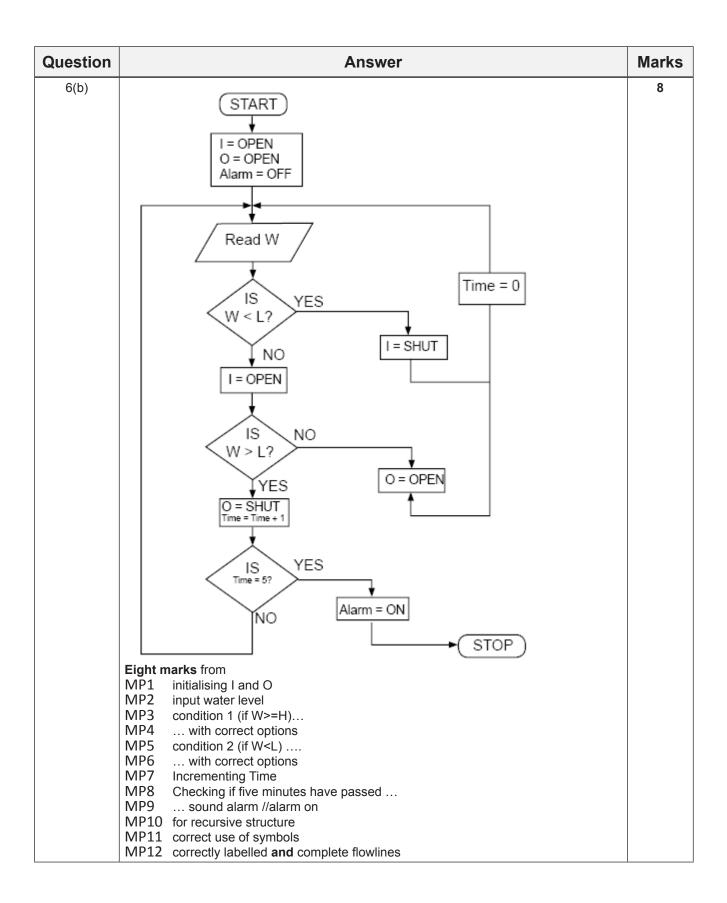
	Answer									
2(a)(i)	adequate ki	A sizeable number of candidates struggled with question 2 as they did not have adequate knowledge on the concept of data structures.								
	List of dRemoveLIFO ac	 Two marks from the following List of data items where elements can be added by pushing them on the top / push Removed by popping them out from the top / pop LIFO accept FILO Accept mention of PUSH and POP for one mark 								
2(a)(ii)	Two marks from the following List of data items where elements can be added by inserting it at the rear of the queue / enqueue removed at the front of the queue / dequeue FIFO accept LILO Accept mention of enqueue and dequeue for one mark								2	
2(b)(i)	<u> </u>								2	
. , . ,										
				_						
	\Box	+				-		-		
		-								
		13			start	24	24			
	24	24			end p	18	18			
	18	18					13			
	x	У	z			х	y.	z		
	-	Stack					Queue			
	One mark for One mark for Allow FT if p	or correct o	ompletion	on of column	y for que					
2(b)(ii)	1 1	1 1							2	
2(b)(ii)									2	
2(b)(ii)									2	
2(b)(ii)									2	
2(b)(ii)									2	
2(b)(ii)			13			tarts 24	24		2	
2(b)(ii)	start poin		24	24		tarte 24	18	18	2	
2(b)(ii)	start poin	te 18	24 18	18		nd p 18	18 13	13	2	
2(b)(ii)			24 18 y				18 13 y	13 Z	2	
2(b)(ii)		te 18	24 18	18		nd p 18	18 13	13 Z	2	
2(b)(ii)		x x correct co	24 18 y Stack completio	z z on of column on of column	z for stack	nd g 18	18 13 y	13 Z	2	

Question	Answer	Marks						
2(c)(ii)	Four marks from the following Check for list full // check for free space If not full then get pointer to free space Store data at the address indicated by the pointer Replace free space pointer with pointer from address where data item has been stored If list full exit with error message	4						
3(a)(i)	Most candidates were better prepared for this question. Good mastery of concepts was well demonstrated by the majority of the candidates. Some candidates were however not too sure about the difference between logic and runtime errors. Two marks from the following incorrect programming language grammar / punctuation Program does not compile / cannot be run	2						
3(a)(ii)	Two marks from the following Mistakes in the design of a program / algorithm Program produces incorrect / unexpected result(s)							
3(a)(iii)	 Two marks from the following Errors that cause problems with execution of the program Program may unexpectedly exit / hang when encounters a runtime error 	2						
	There was a typo that could potentially confuse some candidates on the part(b) section of the question. As a result a special marking approach was employed so as not to disadvantage any candidate.							
3(b)(i)	One mark for identification of error, One mark for correction Error: line 11 // bmi_class Correction: bmi_class "normal"	2						
3(b)(ii)	One mark for identification of error, One mark for correction Error: line 12 // ELSE IF bmi > 25 AND bmi <= 29 THEN Correction: ELSE IF bmi >= 25 AND bmi <= 29 THEN	2						
3(b)(iii)	One mark for identification of error, One mark for correction Error: missing = line 4 // IF height < 0 OR weight <= 0 THEN Correction: IF height <= 0 OR weight <= 0 THEN	2						

Question	Answer Ma								
4	This is a typical question that detects how Computer Science requires precision and exactness in answers. There were a number of correct answers that demonstrated good understanding and mastery of concepts. Unfortunately the same mastery could not be illustrated by candidates from certain centres.								
	Five marks One mark for count, y and Output columns One mark for column x (3,2,1,0) one mark fully correct column x								
	count	x	У	Output	7				
	1								
		3	5	5					
		2		5					
		1		5	_				
		0			_				
	2	2	4	4	_				
		1		4	_				
		0			_				
	3	3	2	2	_				
		2		2	_				
		1		2					
		0			_				
	4								
	Note allow re	peated value	es in the co	ount and y co l	olumns				

Question	Answer	Marks
5	Although only a handful of candidates managed score full marks of this question, the attempts made helped candidates to score well in this question. Very few candidates from certain centres did not make attempts at all. All candidates are encouraged to make attempts instead of leaving the question blank.	
	Ten marks from the following MP1 Initialisation of valid attempts and invalid attempts to zero MP2 Enter access code MP3 Check if access code is 9999 MP4 Check access code is in the access code list if it is not 9999 MP5 If access code in list MP6increment number of valid attempts, allow entry to library MP7 If access code not in list MP8 allow two further attempts MP9 if three attempts fail MP10increment number of invalid attempts MP11display "Entry Denied" or similar message MP12 Output number of valid attempts, invalid attempts when 9999 is input as an access code MP13 Use of meaningful identifiers	10
	MP14 Use of loop to allow for multiple learners to access the library MP15 Suitable messages seen for all prompts and outputs	
	Sample answer Attempt ← 0 Visit ← 0 Times ← 0 NoCodes ← Length(ValidCodes[]) REPEAT PRINT "Please enter access code" INPUT AccessCode IF AccessCode = 9999 THEN PRINT "Number of learners visiting the library is ", Visit PRINT "Number of times a learner was denied access is ", Times ELSE Try ← 0 Counter ← 0 Valid ← FALSE WHILE NOT Valid OR Try < 3 REPEAT IF AccessCode = ValidCode[Counter] THEN Visit ← Visit + 1 Valid ← TRUE Print "Access granted" ELSE Counter ← Counter + 1 ENDIF UNTIL Counter = NoCodes	
	IF NOT Valid THEN	
	IF ·Try ·= ·3 ·THEN ·Times · ← ·Times · + ·1¶ ·THEN¶ ·Print · "Entry ·Denied"¶ ·ENDIF¶ UNTIL ·AccessCode ·= ·9999¤	

Question	Answer								
6(a)	struggled to co	me up w Teache	rith mean ers are e	ningful f encoura	red well in this question. Some candidates lowcharts on part(b), a concept that seemed ged to gives candidates exposure to the syllabus.				
		I	NPUT	QUITDUT					
		Х	у	Z	OUTPUT	3			
		6	10	8	10				
		5	2	9	9				
		3	5	3	5				
			One m	nark for	each correct output				



Question			Answer			Marks					
7(a)	Majority of candidates managed to score well on this question.										
	Two marks One mark for Y, Z, T and no other parts to the expression One mark for AND and AND in the correct positions										
		Z) AND T AND Z= 1 AND T=		AND Z AND	T // Y.Z.T						
(b)(i)	The majority of candidates managed to draw meaningful logic circuits thereby demonstrating high levels of competency on the learning objectives being examined.										
	Two marks One mark for each AND gate (correct shape, sequence and input/out).										
	Or Accept a single 3 in	nput AND gate for t v	wo marks								
(b) (ii)	There was a typo that could potentially confuse some candidates on this section of the question. As a result a special marking approach was employed so as not to disadvantage any candidate. One mark correct headings, One mark correct inputs										
	Y	Z	т	X]						
	0	0	0	0	1						
	0	0	1	0	-						
	0	1	0	0	_						
	0	1	1	0	-						
	1	0	0	0	_						
	1	0	1	0	-						
	1	1	0	0	1						
	1	1	1	1	1						

