

HSC marking simulation videoconference: Software Design and Development

2010 Presenters

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Video Conference overview

- o Development of the SDD HSC examination paper
- o Journey of the Exam Paper
- o Unpacking HSC questions and developing your answer
- o Example HSC questions
- o Resources
- o Question Time



Pre-marking sessions

Pilot (test) marking

Chief Examiner, Supervisor of marking (SOM) and Senior markers discuss each question and their marking guidelines

Senior markers read and often pilot mark a range of candidates' scripts, relating them to the marking guidelines and test the marking guidelines to ensure validity and that they can be reliably marked and achieve appropriate discrimination.

The marking guidelines can be varied with the agreement of the Chief Examiner.



Pre-marking process

Markers are allocated to marking groups.

Each marking group consists of a team of markers and a Senior marker.

Each marking group marks one question or a part of the question.

Senior marker copies and annotates scripts to guide markers to indicate how marks should be awarded.



Pilot marking

- o Each marking group discusses their question, marking guidelines and then the annotated scripts.
- o All group members apply the marking guidelines to photocopied scripts selected by their Senior Marker.
- o Marks are compared for each script, discrepancies discussed, expected answers refined in line with candidate responses.
- o Process continues until all markers are consistent in the application of the *Marking guidelines* and discrepancies are minimised to acceptable levels.
- o Marking commences when the Senior Marker is confident that all markers are aligned and can fully apply the *Marking guidelines*.



Quality assurance process

- o Check marking by the senior marker.
- o Control scripts at regular intervals.
- o Daily and cumulative marker statistics sheets.





The Journey of Your Paper

- The supervisor of your centre packs up all papers and delivers them to a central secure site.
- Papers are then delivered to the marking centre. SDD has been marked at Homebush previously but this year is moving to North Rocks.
- Clerical staff separate the parts of the paper, attach a marking sheet and bundle these into boxes for marking.
- The Senior marker will deliver a bundle to a marker and eventually some scripts in this bundle may be check marked by a different person.
- Marking sheets are scanned and a total mark for each individual student is calculated.



Unpacking an HSC question



To answer a question successfully, you need to

1. comprehend what the question is asking you to answer
2. understand the content in the question
3. present your answer to the marker



Comprehending the question

Strategies to work out what the question is asking include:

- o Underline the **key terms** in the question

Key terms provide guidance about the depth of the question and expected answer

- o Underline the **key points** in the **question** or **scenario**

The key points in the scenario or concepts being asked need to be identified, as this is what you need to address in your answer



Comprehending the question

Strategies to work out what the question is asking include:

- o **Determine the content from the syllabus in the question**
The content is what you need to know in order to answer the question
- o **Determine the value of the question**
This provides guidance about the length and depth of an answer. A question worth 4 marks will require a more in-depth and detailed answer compared to a 1 mark question



Answering the question

Strategies to help you construct your answer include:

- o Determine the **possible content** required in the answer
Do a quick brainstorm and noting down possible ideas or points to include in the answer
- o Determine how you will present your answer to address the key term in the question
Having a framework or template for each key term can help you to present your answer



Answering the question

Strategies to help you construct your answer include:

- o Checking when you have finished
 - ✓ Have I answered the question?
 - ✓ Have I addressed enough information for the key term?
 - ✓ Have I linked my answer to the scenario?
 - ✓ Do I need to provide an example to illustrate my answer?



Key terms

Key terms provide guidance as to the depth and structure of the answers required

An HSC question could have different key terms

_____ the above diagram

Identify

Recognise and name

Define

State meaning and identify essential qualities

Explain

Relate cause and effect; make the relationships between things evident; provide why and/or how



Key terms

Compare and contrast: show how things are similar or different

Scaffold

In your answer provide:

- Detail of similarities
- Detail of differences
- Link the similarities and differences together using key words, i.e. whereas, but



HSC questions 21 (b) 2009 HSC

b) A computerised security system is being developed for use at sporting and entertainment venues.

Security guards will use handheld devices to scan fingerprints of people entering the venue. The fingerprints will be transmitted to a remote location where they will be compared against a police database.

- (i) Outline technical constraints that would need to be considered during the feasibility study.
- (ii) Discuss social and/or ethical issues that could arise from the operation this system.



HSC questions 22 (a) 2008 HSC

Consider the following algorithm.

```
110 BEGIN FindAccountData(accountNumber, accountName, accountAddress)
120     OPEN accountFile
130     READ accountFile
140     found = False
150     WHILE NOT found
160         IF accountFile.accountNumber = accountNumber
170             THEN found = True
180                 accountName = accountFile.accountName
190                 accountAddress = accountFile.accountAddress
200         ELSE
210             READ accountFile
220         ENDIF
230     END WHILE
240     CLOSE accountFile
250 END FindAccountData
```

- (i) Explain how the variable accountNumber has been used.
- (ii) There is an error in the algorithm. Describe the error.
- (iii) Alter the algorithm FindAccountData using pseudocode to take the data found in the algorithm and print it on the screen. The format of the data on the screen is not important.

REMEMBER

- Learn how to respond to the Key Terms
- Refer to the SCENARIO in the question
- Check that you have fully answered the question.
E.g. Identify consequences...
 - Giving only one example may not be enough to achieve full marks
- Check that you have answered all parts
E.g., What is a how it used to support a?
 - This question has 2 parts and both need to be answered



Resources

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

- Syllabus – if it is in the syllabus it may be in the exam
- Software and Course Specifications – has the detail about how to the documentation (e.g. algorithms, DFD) need to laid out
- Standards package – has sample answers at different levels of the 2001, 2002 & 2003 HSC exams <http://arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/hsc/std-packs/>
- HSC papers, Marking Guidelines, Notes from the Examination Centre and Sample answers

Resources

- o HSC online (hsc.csu.edu.au/sdd) – good notes

