

*EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI*

# **EPCSE**

**EXAMINATION REPORT**

**FOR**

**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(5924)**

**YEAR**

**2022**

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**Paper 5924/02A****Theory Paper****General comments**

- The paper gave all candidates an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of ICT using a wide variety of topics. However, a vast majority of candidates seemed not to have properly grasped all the syllabus content. There was also evidence that some did not cover all the topics.
- Most candidates failed to answer questions that were based on practical activities.
- Candidates are advised to write their answers in full. For instance, when a question requires them to explain or define, they should give their answers in full as each question requires detailed points relevant to the question. When a question indicates a specific number of answers, candidates should only write one answer in each allocated space as only one is marked for each space.

**Comments on Specific Stages****Question 1**

Most candidates were able to gain full marks in this question. The most common answer was Microsoft Word. Candidates are advised not to use brand names for packages when answering questions.

**Question 2**

Most candidates did not get full marks for this question.

**Question 3**

Most candidates were able to get full marks for this question.

**Question 4**

Most candidates knew what RAM is, but there was a misconception that Solid state drive is an external hard disk. Most candidates got half the marks for the question.

**Question 5**

Candidates who knew about 3D printing got full marks. Most candidates were guessing the answers thus getting no marks.

**Question 6**

Candidates did not do well in this question. Most of them assumed that a switch was for turning on/off the internet. They ignored that the question required them to describe a network device.

**Question 7**

Most candidates did well in part (a) and (b), but very few got part (c).

**Question 8**

Question was generally well answered. Candidates were given full marks for giving examples.

**Question 9**

Question was well answered by most candidates.

**Question 10**

(a) Most candidates got full marks as the required answer was already mentioned in the question stem.

(b) Question was generally well answered.

**Question 11**

Most candidates who attempted this question got half marks as they did not mention that a blog is a website or online platform.

**Question 12**

Question was fairly answered by most candidates.

**Question 13**

(a) Most candidates did not get full marks for the question. They assumed the dots were typed and ignored the hide/show feature as referred to in the question.

(b) Most candidates failed to get the correct response. The most common wrong answer was indentation.

**Question 14**

Most candidates did well in this question.

**Question 15**

Candidates were able to explain the process of sorting and thus most of them got maximum marks.

**Question 16**

Very few candidates attempted this question. Those that tried merely mentioned VLOOKUP or IF functions.

**Question 17**

Most candidates failed to get full marks in this question. Most of them got 1 mark for naming Cell A, but failed to make merging of cells.

**Question 18**

Generally, well answered question, except for part (a), where the common wrong answer was 4.

**Paper 5924/02B****Theory Paper****Key messages**

For this examination, the main issues to note are as follows:

**Database**

- Candidates need a better understanding of working with databases, designing of tables and modifying them, where the use of validation techniques is concerned.
- Candidates need a better understanding of creating of queries and modifying them in the sense of adding new field that calculate at run time along with validation and verification techniques.
- Candidates need to understand on report creating to populate the desired outcome.

**Spreadsheet**

- Candidates need to take greater care with the accuracy of data entry, formatting of cells and font used.
- Candidates need to be able to use a variety of functions.
- Candidates need to be able to identify which is the most appropriate function for a task.
- Candidates need to ensure that appropriate formatting is used for all cells including conditional formatting.
- Candidates need to take greater care with the formatting of the spreadsheet, particularly the setting of row heights and column widths to match both the question and the data or labels contained within the cells.

**Printing**

- Candidates must ensure that they include their candidate details in the correct place on all printouts.
- Candidates must be able to display row and column heading if requested.
- They must only print the desired outcome.

**General comments**

Candidate errors were spread evenly over the sections of the paper. There were significant differences in the range of results from centre to centre and from candidate to candidate within centres.

**Comments on Specific Questions****Question 1**

A few candidates did not create the evidence document. Most of them attempted this question.

**Question 2**

Most candidates managed to import the table and set the data types as requested.

However, changing of field properties of the YearPainted in tblPainting proved to be a none starter to a majority of candidates.

**Question 3**

This question was mostly attempted by candidates.

**Question 4**

Creating of the form was easy for most of the candidates, however applying the formats as requested by examiner it proved to be impossible for most candidates.

**Question 5**

This question proved to be challenging for most candidates.

**Question 6**

This question was rarely completed well hence the evidence and printout did not display the required output.

**Question 7**

Question was attempted by most candidates.

**Question 8**

Most candidates completed this as specified.

**Question 9**

Most candidates completed this as specified.

**Question 10**

Most candidates did not attempt question. Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function.

**Question 11**

Most candidates did not attempt question. Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function.

**Question 12**

Most candidates did not attempt question. Function proved to be difficult. A few demonstrated knowledge of using the function.

**Question 13**

A majority of candidates completed this as specified, but a few did not set to hide columns as requested, display the row and column headings.

**Question 14**

Majority of candidates did not complete this as specified, but a few did not widen the columns to show all the formulae and others did not include the row and column headings.

**Paper 5924/03**  
**School Based Assessment (Project)**

**Key messages**

The requirements for doing well in this school-based project paper were the ability to:

- read the situation given thoroughly before thinking of the structure of the project.
- meet ALL the conditions stated in the situation.
- produce legible screenshots to capture the required evidence.
- ensure all data is displayed in full and to ensure consistency of presentation.
- produce screenshots to show the outcome of an action and learned skill in process.
- follow the instructions on the question paper to include identification details on work before printing.
- use appropriate software for the project.

**General comments**

- This paper gave an opportunity for candidates to market their small business through presenting a half an hour presentation about their business to potential customers. Candidates were also required to prepare hard copies of business documents so that the audience can take them after the presentation.
- Candidates appeared averagely prepared for this paper. Most candidates completed or attempted all elements of the paper. The implementation and product realization stage was particularly well done with many candidates achieving most of the marks in this stage.
- A reasonable number of candidates seem to have done the project at last minute thus the quality of the projects was not impressive.
- Some candidates lacked or did not show creativity when doing the projects. There was less use of:
  - (i) Some multimedia elements such as tables, moving images
  - (ii) Software features such as animations, transitions, presenters' notes etc.
- Candidates are required to produce screenshots to evidence the ICT skills that cannot be assessed through the printed product alone. This can be done in all the stages of the project except for the proposal stage. Screen shots must show all required elements, important elements must not be cropped out. Some candidates submitted their work without screen shots.



- A number of candidates did not print all of the required stages of the project. For example, some had the design stage printed and no evidence of the evaluation and/or documentation stages. Candidates should be encouraged to print evidence of each stage as soon as they complete these stages. They must not wait until they complete the project for them to print.

## Comments on Specific Stages

### Proposal

- **Introduction** – Candidates did well in this section. Most candidates were able to tell the background and the purpose of their project. Most candidates understood the project specifications and were able to describe the background and purpose of their project. Expected background information had to include:
  - (i) The type of business
  - (ii) Services rendered
  - (iii) Where and when the business was established
  - (iv) Ownership of the business

Most candidates were able to describe the background and the purpose of their Businesses.

- **Problem statement** – Candidates did fairly well in this section. This section needs candidates to clearly understand the situation in Figure 1 in the question paper. Candidates are tasked to make a half an hour presentation that would be presented at a trade fair. They were also tasked to make hard copies of their business documents. Candidates were required to advertise their businesses through multimedia presentation and through producing hard copies of their business documents, such as brochure, flyer, poster and newsletter.

**This section required candidates to:**

- (i) Identify an ICT solution that can be used to solve the problem
  - (ii) State the ICT solution.
- **Justification** – Most candidates were not able to give five or more reasons for their choice of software stated in the problem statement. This section requires candidates to state and justify their choice of ICT solution, the software to be used. Some candidates researched about the software to be used but give irrelevant and general justifications of their choice. Their reasons do not justify their choice,

- **Methodology** – Most candidates did not do well in this section. Candidates are expected to clearly state and explain at least 4 stages of their system development. These stages are:

- (i) Development stage
- (ii) Testing stage
- (iii) Documentation stage
- (iv) Evaluation stage

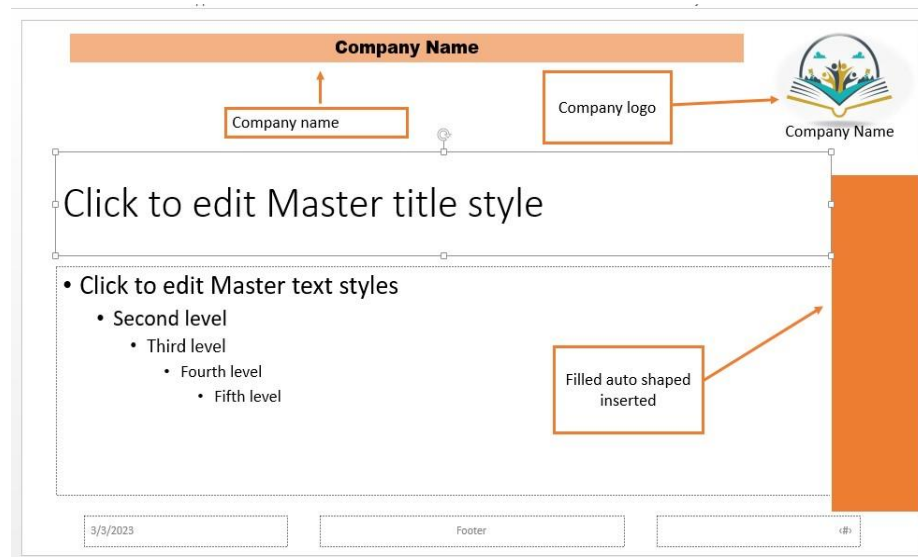
They were expected to give an explanation of each stage in relevance of their project.

- **Time-frame, References** – A majority of candidates did well in these sections. Some candidates were stating time frames for the stages of the proposals yet the requirement was to give time frames of each stage to be developed in their project.

### Design

- Most candidates did not produce evidence, as screen shots, to show the different designs required at this stage. Candidates were expected to describe how they would design solution to solve the given ICT problem. The description had to be supported with evidence, which are the screen shots. The design had to include:

- (i) **Master slide** – describe elements that would be included in the master slide, such as company logo, auto shapes and etc.



- (ii) **Multimedia elements** – describe the design of multimedia elements to be included in the presentation. For example, a price tables. Below is evidence of the design.

Company name	
item	price ( E )
item 1	25.00
item 2	30.00
item 3	18.00

Price table designed in excel

- **Animations and transition** – Some candidates were showing slides with evidence of animations and transitions to be used. Full marks were obtained when there was evidence of animations and transitions.



Selected transition



Selected animation

- **Hardware and Software requirements** – Most candidates were able to list hardware and software requirements for their project. Some responses were giving hardware and software that were never used anywhere in the project.

- **Presenter notes** – Some candidates did not write the presenter notes. This notes helps presenter to elaborate more on the slides to be presented. Full marks were awarded when there was an evidence of the presenter’s notes.
- **Hard copy documents** – Candidates were able to state relevant software to be used when producing the hard copy documents. In their design they had to include or state their:
  - (i) Company logo
  - (ii) Objectives of the hard out
  - (iii) Fonts to be used
  - (iv) Colour schemes
  - (v) Objects to be included such tables, images and shapes.

### **Testing**

- Very few candidates were able to show their test plans. Candidates were generally explaining what a test plan was, and why they needed a test plan, without relating their test plan to their project. Fully marks were awarded when candidates vividly explained how they were going to test the functionality of their project by stating the following:
  - (i) Test plan – what to be tested, stating at least 3 elements in their presentation that needed to be tested.
  - (ii) Module testing – describe how the functionality of the 3 elements of their project that would be tested individually.
  - (iii) Final testing – describe how the functionality of the whole project would be tested.

Full marks were awarded to candidates who presented their test plan in a table form, as follows.

Test plan	Module testing	Final testing
Stating what to be stated, e.g. animations	Describing how the functionality of the different parts will be tested individually, e.g. viewing the presentation in slide show to see if the animations works.	Describing how the functionality of the whole project will be tested, e.g. does the project serve the intended purpose that is to market the produce to the potential clients?

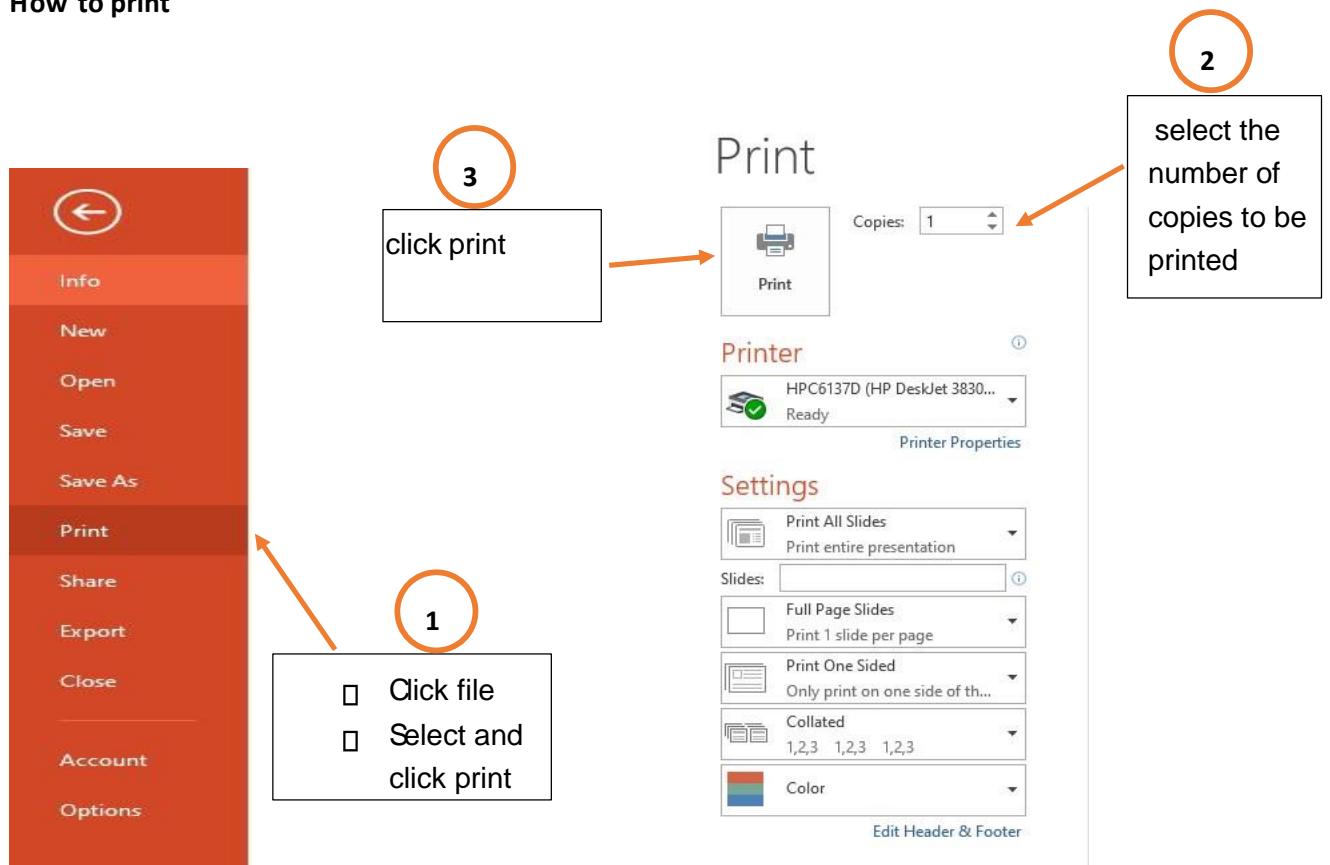
### **Implementation**

- Most candidates got high marks in developing the system. Although, a majority did not show creativity and enhancement in their projects to get full marks.

### **Documentation**

- Most candidates were able to produce a user document. In order to gain full marks, candidates were supposed to show screenshots of how the systems works, not just generalizing. For example:

## How to print



## Evaluation

- Most candidates failed to evaluate their system. They needed to state whether their system could do all what they intended it to do or not. They then had to identify issues they faced when creating the system and how they overcame them, which most of them could not do.

A majority of candidates could not identify limitations of their system. They were merely stating their limitations as developers not for the system.