



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**9608/23**

Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

**October/November 2021**

**2 hours**

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

## 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.

This document has **24** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

1 (a) An algorithm contains the following steps:

1. prompt and input a product number
2. validate the product number
3. save the validated product number to FILE\_A.txt

(i) Write the pseudocode statement for step 1.

.....  
 .....[2]

(ii) State the purpose of FILE\_A.txt.

.....  
 .....[1]

(b) State **two** benefits of creating program flowcharts when documenting a program.

1 .....  
 .....  
 2 .....  
 ..... [2]

(c) Draw **one** line from each technical term to its appropriate description.

Technical term	Description
Corrective maintenance	Stores data of the same data type in memory
Array	Amends an algorithm following identification of errors
Adaptive maintenance	Amends an algorithm in response to specification changes
Structure chart	Shows parameters passed between program modules

[3]

- (d) The following pseudocode procedure, `SetupVars()`, initialises the variables used to check the status of a product.

```

PROCEDURE SetupVars()
  Description ← "CONCRETE-SLAB"
  Destination ← "ELY"
  Mileage ← 200
  EndOfYear ← 1
  Limit ← 20000
  Overdue ← FALSE
ENDPROCEDURE

```

Complete the table by evaluating each pseudocode expression.

If the expression is invalid, write "ERROR" in the **Evaluates to** column.

Refer to the **Appendix** on pages 22–23 for a list of built-in pseudocode functions and operators.

Pseudocode expression	Evaluates to
<code>EndOfYear * Limit / Mileage</code>	
<code>LENGTH(Description) / NUM_TO_STRING(Limit)</code>	
<code>MOD(20, LENGTH(Destination))</code>	
<code>(EndOfYear &lt; 2) AND (Limit = 20000) AND NOT(Overdue)</code>	
<code>MID(Description, 1, 5) &amp; LEFT(Destination, 2) &amp; NUM_TO_STRING(Limit / 1000)</code>	

[5]

- 2 A company owns 50 cars that are available for hire. The cars are numbered from 1 to 50. The size of a car can be small, medium, or large.

The following pseudocode procedure, `SetOut()`, takes as input the size of the car the customer has requested for hire and outputs details of the cars that are available for hire for that size of car.

Line numbers are given for reference only.

Refer to the **Appendix** on pages 22–23 for a list of built-in pseudocode functions and operators.

```

01 DECLARE Available : ARRAY[1:50] OF BOOLEAN
02 DECLARE CarSize : ARRAY[1:50] OF STRING
03
04 PROCEDURE SetOut(Size: STRING)
05   DECLARE Index : REAL
06
07   FOR Index ← 0 TO 50
08     IF Size = CarSize[Index] AND Available[Index] = "TRUE"
09       THEN
10         OUTPUT NUM_TO_STRING(Index) & ": " & Size & " Available"
11       ENDIF
12     ENDFOR
13
14 ENDPROCEDURE

```

- (a) Complete the table by identifying **four** line numbers that contain errors **and** give the correct pseudocode statement.

Line number	Correct pseudocode statement

[4]



3 The function `AddressChecker()` checks if an email address is in the format:

`<user>@<host>.<domain>`

The design requirements of the function are:

- The `<user>` contains only lower-case characters.
- The `<domain>` contains exactly three alphabetic characters.

`AddressChecker()` will use three functions as described in the following table.

Function	Description
<code>Split()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes two parameters:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ a <code>STRING</code> value containing the email address</li> <li>◦ a <code>BOOLEAN</code> value representing the required return value</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Returns two different values:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ a <code>STRING</code> containing <code>&lt;user&gt;</code> if the <code>BOOLEAN</code> parameter value is <code>TRUE</code></li> <li>◦ a <code>STRING</code> containing <code>&lt;domain&gt;</code> if the <code>BOOLEAN</code> parameter value is <code>FALSE</code></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<code>IsLowerCase()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes an element of the email address as a <code>STRING</code> parameter</li> <li>• Returns a <code>BOOLEAN</code> value of <code>TRUE</code> if the string contains only lower-case characters, otherwise returns <code>FALSE</code></li> </ul>
<code>IsThreeLetter()</code>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes the domain as a <code>STRING</code> parameter</li> <li>• Returns a <code>BOOLEAN</code> value of <code>TRUE</code> if the string consists of exactly three alphabetic characters, otherwise returns <code>FALSE</code></li> </ul>

`AddressChecker()` will:

- prompt and input an email address
- check that the email address is valid
- return the string `"Invalid"` if the email address does not meet the design requirements, otherwise return the email address.

(a) Draw a program flowchart to represent the algorithm for the `AddressChecker()` function.

Variable declarations are not required in program flowcharts.



[6]

(b) The function `AddressChecker()` is changed to check a list of email addresses stored in a text file.

The function's header is changed as follows:

```
FUNCTION AddressChecker(Filename : STRING, StartLine : INTEGER,  
                        LastLine : INTEGER) RETURNS BOOLEAN
```

Assume that:

- The function is called with a valid filename of the text file.
- The text file exists and contains at least one email address.
- Each email address is stored in a separate line in the text file.
- The function does not contain logical errors.

Give **two** reasons why the function may return an unexpected result.

Reason 1 .....

.....

Reason 2 .....

.....

[2]

(c) (i) Explain what is meant by the term **syntax error**.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

(ii) Give an example of a syntax error in **program code**.

Programming language .....

Program code

.....

.....

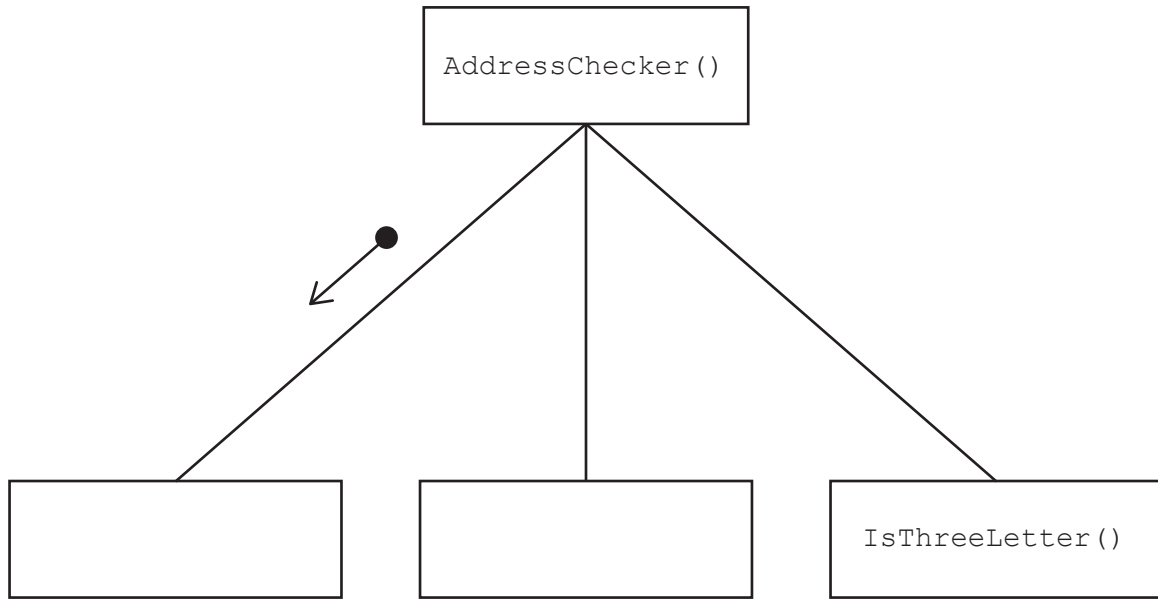
.....

..... [1]



(d) The following incomplete structure chart shows part of the design of the function `AddressChecker()`.

Complete the structure chart.



[3]

(e) State **and** describe **two** features of an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that aid debugging.

Feature 1 .....

.....

Description .....

.....

.....

Feature 2 .....

.....

Description .....

.....

.....

[4]

- 4 The following pseudocode contains a function that searches a text file for the string contained in the parameter `Match`.

```

01 DECLARE MatchItems : ARRAY[1:100] OF STRING
    {
10 FUNCTION Extract(FileName : STRING, Match : STRING,
                    Signal : INTEGER) RETURNS BOOLEAN
11
12     DECLARE FileLine : INTEGER
13     DECLARE Counter : INTEGER
14     DECLARE FileData, SubMatch : STRING
15     DECLARE Result : BOOLEAN
16
17     Counter ← 0
18     FileLine ← 1
19     Result ← FALSE
20
21     OPENFILE FileName FOR READ
22
23     WHILE NOT EOF(FileName) AND FileLine <= 100
24         READFILE FileName, FileData
25         SubMatch ← LEFT(FileData, LENGTH(Match))
26         IF SubMatch = Match
27             THEN
28                 MatchItems[Counter] ← FileData
29                 Counter ← Counter + 1
30             ENDIF
31         FileLine ← FileLine + 1
32     ENDWHILE
33
34     CLOSEFILE FileName
35     IF Counter >= Signal
36         THEN
37             Result ← TRUE
38         ENDIF
39     RETURN Result
40
41 ENDFUNCTION

```

- (a) Complete the trace table when the function is called using this statement:

```
Present ← Extract("DATA.txt", "TG12367", 1)
```

You may assume that the text file `DATA.txt` contains the following lines:

```

"XD43668#23/11/19#DSCP"
"TG12367#24/01/19#MAHA"
"HD44356#24/11/19#MAHA"
"TG12367#24/11/19#GHFI"

```

FileLine	Counter	LEFT (FileData, LENGTH (Match) )	SubMatch = Match	Result

[5]

(b) The function is changed as follows:

- The statement on line 25 is changed to compare the last ten characters of `FileData` and the parameter `Match`.

If the comparison is successful:

- store the first seven characters of `FileData` in a global 1D array called `Original`
- store the last four characters of `FileData` in a global 1D array called `Backup`
- The count of the number of items stored in the array `Backup` is returned.

(i) Rewrite the function header in **pseudocode** so that it meets the new requirements.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]



**Question 4 continues on the next page.**



.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [6]

- 5 A geocode string contains four alphanumeric characters, followed by the character '+' and then two alphanumeric characters.

For example, the geocode string for the Avocado Restaurant in Cambridge UK is:

```
"1DFG+9N"
```

A website allows a user to upload a review of a restaurant.

A programmer has defined the following two arrays:

Array	Description
GeoData	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a global 1D array of data type <code>STRING</code></li> <li>stores the geocode for each restaurant</li> </ul> <p>Example:</p> <pre>GeoData[1] ← "1DFG+9N"</pre>
Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a global 1D array of data type <code>STRING</code></li> <li>stores the following data items as a single element in the array: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the four-character user ID of the reviewer</li> <li>the geocode of the restaurant</li> <li>the text of the review</li> </ul> </li> <li>the hash symbol (#) separates the data items in each single element</li> </ul> <p>Example of a review for the Avocado restaurant submitted by user ID JH76:</p> <pre>Review[1000] ← "JH76#1DFG+9N#Good restaurant"</pre>

Assume that:

- both arrays are initialised with an empty string
- both arrays can store up to 20 000 elements
- new reviews are added in the next unused element of the `Review` array.

(a) The programmer writes a function `CheckReview()`.

The design requirements of the function are shown in the following table:

Description	Parameter	Returns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>searches the <code>GeoData</code> array to determine if the user's latest review contains a listed geocode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a <code>STRING</code> value containing the user ID of the reviewer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the comment from the review if the geocode exists in the <code>GeoData</code> array</li> <li>a <code>STRING</code> value of "LOCATION NOT FOUND" if the geocode of the user's review does not exist in the <code>GeoData</code> array</li> <li>a <code>STRING</code> value of "NO REVIEW" if no review exists for the user ID</li> </ul>













## Appendix

### Built-in functions (pseudocode)

Each function returns an error if the function call is not properly formed.

ASC(ThisChar : CHAR) RETURNS INTEGER  
returns the ASCII value of ThisChar

Example: ASC('A') returns 65

CHR(x : INTEGER) RETURNS CHAR  
returns the character whose ASCII value is x

Example: CHR(87) returns 'W'

LENGTH(ThisString : STRING) RETURNS INTEGER  
returns the integer value representing the length of string ThisString

Example: LENGTH("Happy Days") returns 10

LEFT(ThisString : STRING, x : INTEGER) RETURNS STRING  
returns leftmost x characters from ThisString

Example: LEFT("ABCDEFGH", 3) returns "ABC"

MID(ThisString : STRING, x : INTEGER, y : INTEGER) RETURNS STRING  
returns a string of length y starting at position x from ThisString

Example: MID("ABCDEFGH", 2, 3) returns "BCD"

RIGHT(ThisString: STRING, x : INTEGER) RETURNS STRING  
returns rightmost x characters from ThisString

Example: RIGHT("ABCDEFGH", 3) returns "FGH"

MOD(ThisNum : INTEGER, ThisDiv : INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER  
returns the integer value representing the remainder when ThisNum is divided by ThisDiv

Example: MOD(10,3) returns 1

NUM\_TO\_STRING(x : REAL) RETURNS STRING  
returns a string representation of a numeric value  
Note: This function will also work if x is of type INTEGER

Example: NUM\_TO\_STRING(87.5) returns "87.5"

STRING\_TO\_NUM(x : STRING) RETURNS REAL  
returns a numeric representation of a string  
Note: This function will also work if x is of type CHAR

Example: STR\_TO\_NUM("23.45") returns 23.45

## Operators (pseudocode)

Operator	Description
&	Concatenates (joins) two strings Example: "Summer" & " " & "Pudding" produces "Summer Pudding"
AND	Performs a logical AND on two Boolean values Example: TRUE AND FALSE produces FALSE
OR	Performs a logical OR on two Boolean values Example: TRUE OR FALSE produces TRUE

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