MODULE R EXAM TECHNIQUE · R2

How Cambridge 0478 Paper 1 and Paper 2 are structured

Original practice questions · 20 marks · ~25 minutes · Cambridge 0478 syllabus (exams 2026-2028): Assessment overview and section 4 Details of the assessment

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions. Answer all questions in the spaces provided. The marks for each part are shown in brackets [ ]. The total for this worksheet is **20 marks**. Do not use a calculator. All facts are from the Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science 0478 syllabus for exams in 2026, 2027 and 2028 (version 6, September 2026). The syllabus for 2029 onwards changes Paper 2.

1

Total: 5 marks

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is true of Paper 1 only, Paper 2 only, or both papers. **[5]**

Statement	Paper 1 only	Paper 2 only	Both papers
The exam lasts 1 hour 45 minutes			
The questions are set on Topics 1 to 6 of the syllabus			
The last question is a 15-mark unseen scenario question			
Calculators are not allowed			
Where an answer involves coding, it must be written in pseudocode (with one exception)			

2

Total: 3 marks

An adult evening class is revising for the 0478 exams. The tutor sorts the revision tasks by the paper they belong to.

(a) Write **1** or **2** in each row to show which paper assesses each task. **[3]**

Revision task	Paper (1 or 2)
Explaining how a firewall helps to keep data safe	
Completing a truth table for a logic circuit	
Stating the output of an SQL query on a single-table database	

3 **Total: 4 marks**

These answers were written in a 0478 Paper 2 exam.

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box in each row to show whether the answer **can** be awarded marks. **[4]**

Answer	Can be awarded marks	Cannot be awarded marks
A 5-mark "write an algorithm" question (not the last question) answered in Cambridge pseudocode		
The same 5-mark question answered in Python		
The 15-mark scenario question answered in Visual Basic		
The 15-mark scenario question answered in Pascal		

4 **Total: 3 marks**

The syllabus expects 30 minutes to be spent on the 15-mark scenario question in Paper 2. An exam-timing plan shares the rest of the time on Paper 2 equally between the rest of the marks.

(a) Calculate the number of minutes the plan allows for each of the other marks. Show your working. **[2]**

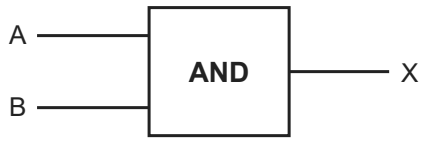
Minutes per mark .....

(b) Question 3 on the paper is worth 4 marks. Use your answer to **(a)** to calculate the time the plan allows for Question 3. **[1]**

Minutes .....

5 **Total: 2 marks**

A Paper 2 question asks for the logic circuit for **X = A AND B**. This drawing is given as the answer.



(a) Explain why this drawing is **not** a suitable answer in a 0478 exam. **[2]**

6 **Total: 3 marks**

A 15-mark scenario question asks for a program that counts how many parcels at a depot weigh more than a limit. One step must add 1 to **OverCount** when **Weight** is greater than **Limit**. Two answers to this step are shown.

Answer A (written in Python)

```
if Weight > Limit
    OverCount = OverCount + 1
```

Answer B (written in pseudocode)

```
IF Weight > Limit
  THEN
    OverCount ← 1
ENDIF
```

(a) Identify the answer that has the correct logic. **[1]**

Answer .....

(b) Explain why the mistake in Answer B is more serious than the mistake in Answer A. **[2]**

Total for this worksheet: 20 marks