



Cambridge Assessment
International Education



Cambridge International AS & A Level

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COMPUTER SCIENCE

9618/32

Paper 3 Advanced Theory

October/November 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

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 **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



- 1 (a) Describe how packet switching is used to transmit messages across a network.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

- (b) State **two** benefits and **two** drawbacks of packet switching as a method of transmitting messages across a network.

Benefit 1

.....

Benefit 2

.....

Drawback 1

.....

Drawback 2

..... [4]

- 2 (a) Describe **serial file organisation** as a method of storing data records in a file.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

- (b) State **one** example of a use for serial file organisation.

.....

..... [1]





3 (a) Describe the user-defined data type **record**.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

(b) A programmer defines a record, `Order`, to store the following data:

- account number
- order number
- order price
- order date.

Write **pseudocode** statements to define this record.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [4]





4 Numbers are stored in a computer using binary floating-point representation with:

- 12 bits for the mantissa
- 4 bits for the exponent
- two's complement form for both the mantissa and the exponent.

(a) Calculate the denary value of the given normalised binary floating-point number.

Show your working.

Mantissa												Exponent			
0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

Working

.....

.....

Answer

[2]

(b) Calculate the normalised binary floating-point representation of -49.1875 in this system.

Show your working.

Mantissa												Exponent			

Working

.....

.....

.....

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.....

[4]





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5 (a) Name and describe **two** protocols used by the Application Layer of the TCP/IP protocol suite.

Protocol 1

Description

.....

.....

Protocol 2

Description

.....

.....

[4]

(b) Explain the purpose and function of the Application Layer in the TCP/IP protocol suite.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]





6 The truth table for a logic circuit is shown.

INPUT				OUTPUT
A	B	C	D	X
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	0	0
0	1	0	1	1
0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	1	0
1	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	1
1	1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1	0

(a) Write the Boolean logic expression that corresponds to the given truth table as the sum-of-products.

X =
..... [3]





(b) Complete the Karnaugh map (K-map) for the given truth table.

		AB			
		00	01	11	10
CD	00				
	01				
	11				
	10				

[2]

(c) Draw loop(s) around appropriate group(s) in the K-map to produce an optimal sum-of-products. [2]

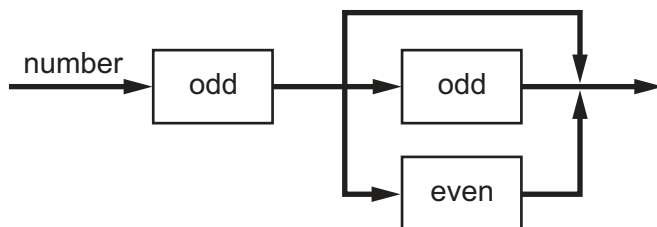
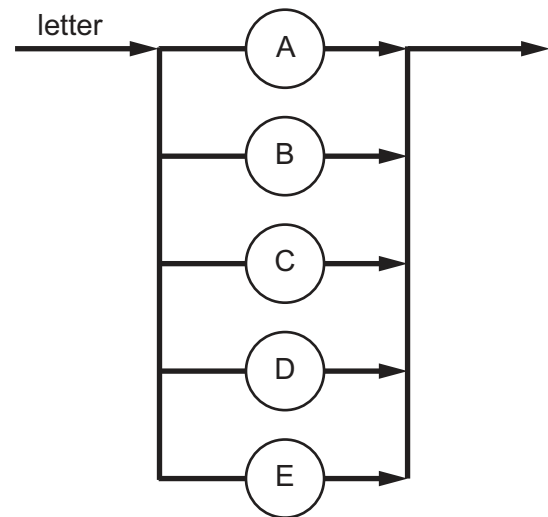
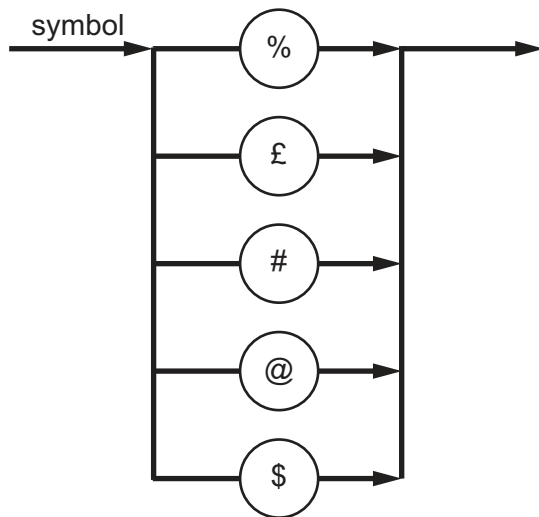
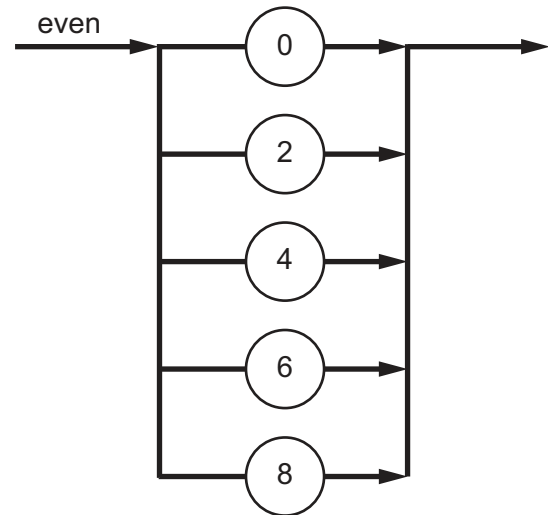
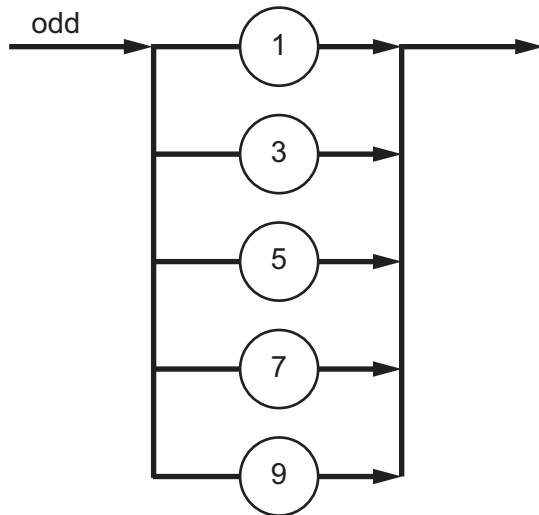
(d) Write the Boolean logic expression from your answer to part (c) as the simplified sum-of-products.

X =
..... [2]





7 Several syntax diagrams are shown.





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(a) State why each number is invalid for the given syntax diagrams.

21

Reason
.....

123

Reason
..... [2]

(b) Complete the Backus-Naur Form (BNF) for the given syntax diagrams.

<symbol> ::=
.....
<number> ::=
..... [2]

(c) A new syntax rule, **code**, is required. It must begin with a letter, followed by one or two numbers, and end with a symbol.

(i) Draw a syntax diagram for **code**.

[3]

(ii) Write the BNF for **code**.

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





- 8 Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC) is a type of processor.

Identify **four** features of a CISC processor.

- 1
-
- 2
-
- 3
-
- 4
-

[4]

- 9 (a) The kernel is the central component of an Operating System (OS).

Outline how the kernel of an OS acts as an interrupt handler.

-
-
-
- [2]

- (b) (i) State what is meant by the term **multi-tasking** in an Operating System.

-
- [1]

- (ii) Describe how multi-tasking is implemented in an Operating System.

-
-
-
- [2]





10 Objects and classes form the basic structure of Object-Oriented Programming (OOP).

(a) Outline the structure of a class.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

(b) Give **three** differences between an object and a class.

1

.....

.....

2

.....

.....

3

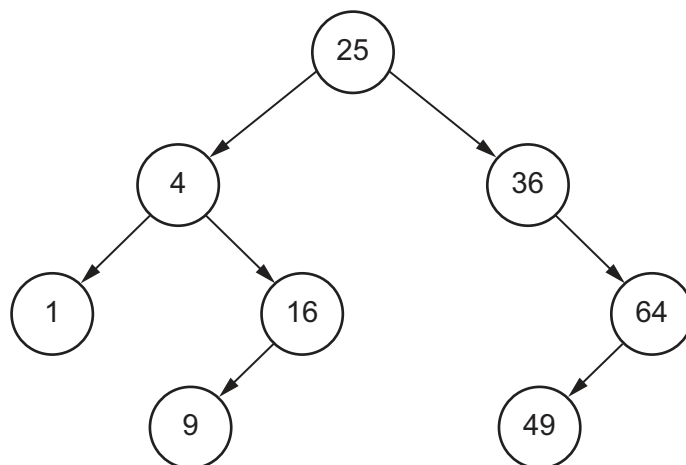
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..... [3]





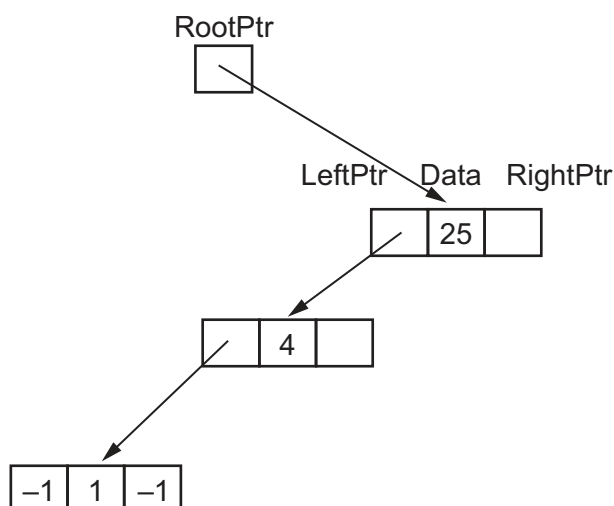
11 This binary tree shows an ordered list of integers.



- (a) A linked list of nodes is used to store the data. Each node consists of a left pointer, the data and a right pointer.

–1 is used to represent a null pointer.

Complete this linked list to represent the given binary tree organisation.



[4]



(b) A 2D array is used to store the nodes of the linked list in part (a).

Complete the diagram using your answer for part (a).

RootPtr	Index	LeftPtr	Data	RightPtr
0	0		25	
	1		4	
	2		36	
	3		1	
	4		16	
	5		64	
FreePtr	6		9	
	7		49	
	8			

[4]

(c) The linked list in part (a) is implemented using a 1D array of records. Each record contains a left pointer, data and a right pointer.

The following pseudocode represents a function that searches for an element in the array of records `LinkedList`. It returns the index of the record if the element is found, or it returns a null pointer if the element is not found.

Complete the pseudocode for the function.

```
FUNCTION SearchList(Item : INTEGER).....
    NullPtr ← -1

    ..... ← RootPtr
    WHILE NowPtr <> NullPtr
        IF LinkedList[NowPtr].Data < Item THEN
            NowPtr ← LinkedList[NowPtr].RightPtr
        ELSE
            IF ..... THEN

                NowPtr ← .....
            ELSE
                RETURN NowPtr
            ENDIF
        ENDIF
    ENDWHILE
    RETURN NullPtr
ENDFUNCTION
```

[4]





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