Notes for teachers on pre-release material for IGCSE/ OL Computer Science Paper 2

The pre-release material will be different for each examination session; take care that you are using the material for the correct year, correct examination session and correct time zone.

Work completed using the pre-release material is not taken into the examination by the students. This means that you can use this material to develop classroom exercises to cover sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the syllabus.

When the pre-release material arrives

- The pre-release material will arrive in your school about five months before the examination.
- Always use the pre-release material sent to your school as there will be different versions available for different time zones.
- Keep a spare copy of the materials, in case any of your students lose their copy.

Before introducing the pre-release material to your students

Check that you are clear about the requirements for all the tasks.

- You can do this by working each task theoretically as:
  - a flowchart
  - pseudocode.
- Provide test data (normal, erroneous and extreme/boundary data) and complete trace tables for both the flowchart and the pseudocode.
- Complete each task as a program, using the same programming language as your students; this will enable you to identify the structures and code required. Also, you will be able to identify where your students may need extra help.
- Test your programs using the same test data you used for the program flowchart and the pseudocode.

Develop exercises for your students to help them with each task. These can be done individually or in pairs and could include:

- identifying variables, constants and arrays that may be needed
- choosing suitable types and names for these
- getting students to explain why their choices were suitable for the tasks
- simple tasks similar to the pre-release to build up the skills needed, for example recording marks for a single student rather than the whole class
- identifying the validation rules required for any data input.

Working with your students and the pre-release material

Encourage your students individually to:

- complete each task in the form of a flowchart, pseudocode and a program
- identify and use suitable test data (normal, erroneous and extreme/boundary data) for each task
- find errors in their flowchart, pseudocode and program and put these errors right
- write down an explanation of how their program solves each task.