



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATSEC
Examinations Board



Marking Scheme

SEC Information Technology Unit 2

Main Session 2026

13th May 2025

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In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with the MATSEC Examinations Board when in doubt.

Marking Scheme (Main Session 2026): SEC Information Technology Unit 2

Criteria Reference	The candidate should be able to:	Question Number	Maximum marks that can be achieved	Allocation of marks NOT to be subdivided any further than indicated below	Example of Expected Answer Other valid answers are to be accepted unless stated otherwise
K-1		Q1	4		
	MQF 1: List the different types of media.	1a	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct type of media listed.	<p>Students are expected to list TWO different types of media, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text • Animation • ABS/PLA filament <p>Images, audio and video should not be accepted.</p>
	MQF 2: Relate the different types of media with the human senses.	1b	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correctly related type of media with the human senses.	<p>Students are expected to relate each of the TWO given types of media with one of the human senses.</p> <p><i>Human sense related to images:</i> Sight <i>Human sense related to video:</i> Sight OR hearing</p> <p>Other answers should not be accepted.</p>
	MQF 3: Identify the hardware required for specific media.	1c	2	Award 0.5 marks for each correctly identified hardware device.	<p>Students are expected to identify TWO hardware devices for each of the TWO given types of media, apart from keyboard and mouse. Possible answers include:</p> <p><i>Hardware required for images:</i> Printer AND/OR monitor AND/OR scanner AND/OR graphics tablet AND/OR (digital) camera</p> <p><i>Hardware required for video:</i> Monitor AND/OR speakers AND/OR microphone AND/OR (digital) camera AND/OR video capture hardware</p> <p><i>Note: The same hardware device should not be accepted for different types of media.</i></p>

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K-2		Q2	4		
	MQF 1: State the main characteristics of image formats.	2a	1	Award 0.25 marks for each correct image format characteristic stated.	<p>Students are expected to state FOUR main characteristics of image formats in any order, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compression • Compatibility • Image size • Vector/Raster <p>Resolution and colour depth should not be accepted.</p>
	MQF 2: Identify the characteristics of an image format.	2b	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct image characteristic identified.	<p>Students are expected to identify the TWO main characteristics, resolution and colour depth, for the given image. The only answers are:</p> <p><i>Resolution: 299.999 x 299.999 ppi</i></p> <p><i>Colour depth: 8-bit</i></p> <p><i>Note: If units are not given, answers should still be considered correct.</i></p>

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K-2	MQF 3: Describe the characteristics of an image format.	2c	2	Award 1 mark for each correct image characteristic described.	<p>Students are expected to describe resolution and colour depth as characteristics of WebP images. The following are possible answers:</p> <p><i>Resolution:</i> Resolution refers to how many pixels are displayed per inch of an image. The larger the number of pixels, the sharper and more detailed the image is.</p> <p><i>Colour depth:</i> This refers to the number of bits used to represent the colour of each pixel, hence determining the maximum number of colours that can be represented by a pixel.</p>
		Q3	4		
K-4	MQF 1: Name different audio file characteristics.	3a	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct audio file characteristic named.	<p>Students are expected to name TWO characteristics of audio files, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitrate • Compression <p>If students refer to compression as 'lossy/lossless/uncompressed', then this is not to be considered as valid.</p>

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K-4	MQF 2: Relate between different types of audio files and their characteristics.	3b	1	Award 0.25 marks for each correctly related audio file type to its characteristic.	<p>Students are expected to relate the FOUR given audio file types to the appropriate statement stating their characteristics. The answers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. LPCM ii. ALAC iii. AAC iv. MP3 <p>Other answers should not be accepted.</p>
	MQF 3: Describe the different audio file characteristics.	3c	2	Award 1 mark for each correct audio file characteristic described.	<p>Students are expected to describe the TWO audio file characteristics they named in Question 3a. The following are possible descriptions:</p> <p><i>Bitrate:</i> Bitrate refers to the amount of data transferred into audio, over one second, and is generally measured in kilobits per second (kbps). The higher the bitrate the better the quality of the audio.</p> <p><i>Compression:</i> Compression refers to the reduction of the overall file size. There are two main types of compression: lossless compression where files retain the same quality and lossy compression where the quality of the audio file is reduced.</p>

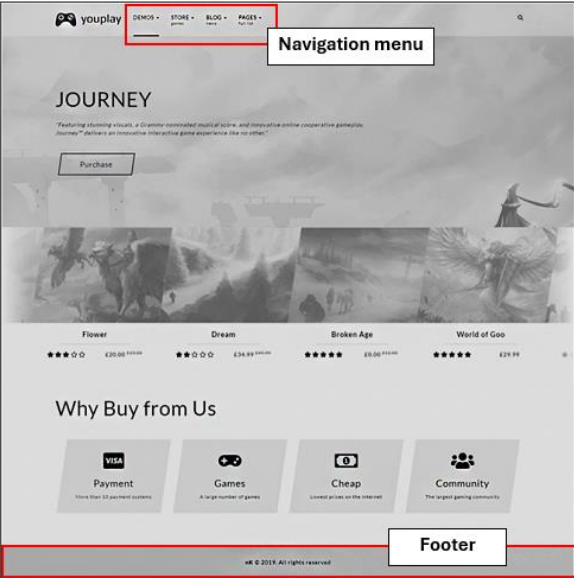
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K-5		Q4	4		
	MQF 1: Name different video file characteristics.	4a	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct video file characteristic named.	Students are expected to name TWO characteristics of video files, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compression • Bitrate • Frame rate • Duration (length) Aspect ratio and frame dimensions should not be accepted.
	MQF 2: Identify the characteristics of a given video file type.	4b	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct video file characteristic identified.	Students are expected to identify the TWO characteristics, aspect ratio and frame dimensions, for the given video file. The answers are: <i>Aspect ratio:</i> 16:9 <i>Frame dimensions:</i> 1280 x 720 pixels <i>Note: If units are not given, answers should still be considered correct.</i>
	MQF 3: Describe the different video file characteristics.	4c	2	Award 1 mark for each appropriate description.	Students are expected to describe the TWO video characteristics, mainly aspect ratio and frame dimensions. The following are possible answers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Aspect ratio:</i> Aspect ratio refers to the proportional relationship between the width of the video and height of the same video. It is expressed as a ratio of two numbers, such as 16:9, where the first number represents the width, and the second number represents the height.

Marking Scheme (Main Session 2026): SEC Information Technology Unit 2

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					ii. <i>Frame dimensions</i> : Frame dimensions refer to the actual width and height of the video frame and are typically measured in pixels. This is expressed as <i>width × height</i> , such as 1280 × 720.
		Q5	6		
C-3	MQF 1: Explain the limitations of a given audio and video file for a given scenario.	5a	2	Award 1 mark for each correct limitation explained.	<p>Students are expected to explain ONE limitation of .WAV audio files and ONE limitation of .AVI video files with respect to the provided scenario. The following is a possible answer:</p> <p><i>Explanation of .WAV limitation</i>: Since .WAV audio files are uncompressed they have high quality audio resulting in large file sizes. This will make it difficult to upload the content on social media as these platforms favour smaller, more compressed audio file types for faster loading times and reduced data usage.</p> <p><i>Note</i>: If different or the same limitations are explained for the different file types, students should still be awarded marks. Answers not related to the scenario are not to be considered as correct.</p>

Criteria Reference	The candidate should be able to:	Question Number	Maximum marks that can be achieved	Allocation of marks NOT to be subdivided any further than indicated below	Example of Expected Answer Other valid answers are to be accepted unless stated otherwise
C-3	MQF 2: Justify an appropriate audio and video file for a given scenario.	5b	2	Award 1 mark for each appropriate justification.	<p>Students are expected to justify why .MP3 audio files and .MPEG4 video files are more appropriate with respect to the provided scenario. The following are possible answers:</p> <p><i>Justification of .MP3 audio file:</i> For uploading audio online on social media, .MP3 files are preferred over .WAV files. This is because .MP3 audio file types are lossy compressed and hence result in smaller file sizes making uploading faster and easier, unlike .WAV files which are uncompressed. Moreover, even though the file size of .MP3 files is reduced significantly, they still maintain good audio quality.</p> <p><i>Justification of .MPEG4 video file:</i> In this scenario, .MPEG4 video files are preferred over .AVI files. This is so since .MPEG4 files is a video format supported by all major social media platforms unlike .AVI files which are not natively supported. Hence using .MPEG4 ensures that Thomas’ promotional advert is played smoothly on any platform without any compatibility issues.</p> <p><i>Note: If different or the same valid justifications are provided, students should still be awarded marks. Answers not related to the scenario are not to be considered as correct.</i></p>

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C-3	MQF 3: Justify an appropriate container for a given scenario.	5c	2	Award 1 mark for each appropriate justification.	<p>Students are expected to justify why .MP4 video containers are more appropriate than DivX video containers for the given scenario, based on <i>compatibility</i> and <i>file size</i>. The following is a possible justification:</p> <p><i>Justification based on compatibility:</i> .MP4 is the most widely supported video container format across major social media platforms ensuring that the promotional advert will play smoothly without any issues. On the other hand, DivX is an older format and less universally supported. In fact, many social media platforms do not natively support DivX, which could lead to issues, limiting one’s ability to view the advert.</p> <p><i>Justification based on file size:</i> While both .MP4 and DivX video containers use compression, .MP4 uses modern and efficient compression codecs, which significantly reduce file sizes while maintaining high-quality video. On the other hand, DivX is generally less efficient in reducing file sizes. Hence .MP4 containers are more ideal for social media where faster upload times, smoother streaming, and reduced bandwidth usage are important.</p> <p><i>Note: Answers not related to the scenario are not to be considered as correct.</i></p>

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K-7		Q6	4		
	MQF 1: List the basic elements of a website.	6a	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct element listed.	Students are expected to list TWO basic elements of a website apart from header and main content, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation menu • Footer
	MQF 2: Identify the basic elements of a given website.	6b	1	Award 0.5 marks for each correct element, listed in Question 6a, identified.	Students are expected to identify the TWO basic elements of a website they listed in Question 6a. <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><i>Note: If students refer to 'Element 1' and 'Element 2' (referring to Question 6a) rather than 'Navigation menu' and 'Footer', marks should still be awarded as long as the correct elements are identified. Answers not related to Question 6a are not to be considered as correct.</i></p>

Marking Scheme (Main Session 2026): SEC Information Technology Unit 2

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K-7	MQF 3: Outline the purpose of the basic elements of a website.	6c	2	Award 1 mark for each correctly outlined purpose.	<p>Students are expected to outline the purpose of the header and the main content. The following are possible answers:</p> <p>i. <i>Header</i>: The header is the top-most part of a webpage, typically containing information such as the website or company name and its logo. Its purpose is to establish the identity of the brand, and serve as a consistent starting point for visitors accessing the website.</p> <p>ii. <i>Main content</i>: The main content is the main part of a website, containing information for users. This can take different forms, such as paragraphs, images, and videos. Its purpose is to deliver the core message of the website to its visitors.</p>
C-4	MQF 1: Select appropriate elements for a given scenario.	Q7 7a	6 2	Award 1 mark for each appropriate element selected.	<p>Students are expected to select the appropriate header and main content for the website.</p> <p>The only answers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header 2 • Main Content 1

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C-4	MQF 2: Justify the appropriate elements for a given scenario.	7b	2	Award 1 mark for each correct justification.	<p>Students are expected to justify the TWO elements selected in Question 7a. The following are possible answers:</p> <p><i>Justification of Header:</i> Header 2 is more appropriate for Thomas’ website than Header 1 since it provides users with details of the shop’s opening hours. Furthermore, given that Thomas wants to allow online shopping, unlike Header 1, Header 2 has the necessary features, such as a shopping cart, indicating that one can buy online.</p> <p><i>Justification of Main content:</i> Both Main Content 1 and 2 showcase the products available for sale, but Main Content 1 is more appropriate over Main Content 2 because it includes a price filter, as well as search and sort functionalities allowing clients to view products that fall within their budget. Additionally, Main Content 1 highlights a list of the most popular products, which information could motivate clients to buy more items.</p> <p><i>Note: Answers not related to Question 7a, and its scenario are not to be considered as correct.</i></p>

Marking Scheme (Main Session 2026): SEC Information Technology Unit 2

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C-4	MQF 3: Argue whether the website should be static or dynamic for a given scenario.	7c	2	Award 2 marks for an appropriate argumentation stating that the website should be dynamic.	<p>Students are expected to provide adequate arguments in favour of a dynamic website. The following is a possible answer:</p> <p>Given that the website should allow online shopping, a dynamic website is the best choice, since it can automatically display real-time information such as updated product availability. In contrast, static websites need to be manually updated by the developer making them less ideal for websites with frequently changing content. Furthermore, unlike static websites, dynamic websites can handle secure payments and securely manage sensitive customer data.</p> <p><i>Note: Answers not related to the scenario are not to be considered as correct.</i></p>
K-9	MQF 1: Define HTML and its use.	Q8 8a	4 1	Award 0.5 marks for a correct definition. Award 0.5 marks for a correct use.	<p>Students are expected to define HTML and its use. The following is a possible answer:</p> <p><i>Definition:</i> HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is a standard markup language.</p> <p><i>Use:</i> It is used to develop the structure of the web pages and define their content.</p>

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K-9	MQF 2: List HTML tags.	8b	1	Award 0.25 marks for each correct HTML tag listed.	<p>Students are expected to list ONE HTML element tag, ONE HTML 5 tag and TWO HTML basic tags, apart from
, <header>, <html> and <a>.</p> <p>i. The following are possible answers for HTML element tags:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• <hr></td> <td>• </td> <td>• <tr></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• </td> <td>• </td> <td>• <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <!--></td> <td>• <table></td> <td>• <div></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• </td> <td>• <th></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The following are possible answers for HTML 5 tags:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• <article></td> <td>• <footer></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <aside></td> <td>• <main></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <dialog></td> <td>• <nav></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <figure></td> <td>• <section></td> </tr> </table> <p>ii. The following are possible answers for HTML basic tags:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>• <head></td> <td>• <body></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <title></td> <td>• <p></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• <link></td> <td>• <h>/<h1></td> </tr> </table> <p>
, <header>, <html> and <a> should not be accepted.</p> <p><i>Note: If the angle brackets (<>) are not included, marks should still be awarded.</i></p>	• <hr>	• 	• <tr>	• 	• 	• <td>	• <!-->	• <table>	• <div>	• 	• <th>		• <article>	• <footer>	• <aside>	• <main>	• <dialog>	• <nav>	• <figure>	• <section>	• <head>	• <body>	• <title>	• <p>	• <link>	• <h>/<h1>
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K-9	MQF 3: Relate attributes to the respective HTML tags.	8c	2	Award 0.5 marks for each correctly related attribute to its respective HTML tag.	<p>Students are expected to relate the FOUR given attributes to the appropriate statement defining their use in relation to the HTML tag. The answers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. target ii. class iii. id iv. href <p>No other answers are to be accepted.</p>
K-10	MQF 1: Define CSS and its use.	Q9	4	<p>Award 0.5 marks for a correct definition.</p> <p>Award 0.5 marks for a correct use.</p>	<p>Students are expected to define CSS and its use. The following is a possible answer:</p> <p><i>Definition:</i> CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a language used with HTML to separate the design of a webpage from its content.</p> <p><i>Use:</i> This allows for better control over the layout and presentation of the HTML.</p>
	MQF 2: Distinguish between different types of CSS.	9b	1	Award 1 mark for appropriately distinguishing between inline and internal CSS.	<p>Students are expected to distinguish between inline and internal CSS. The following is a possible answer:</p> <p>Inline CSS is used to style a specific element directly in the HTML tag. Such styling affects only that element and does not affect other similar elements on the webpage. On the other hand, internal CSS is used to define and apply styles for all elements of a particular type found within the same webpage.</p>

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K-10	MQF 3: Outline CSS selectors and declarations.	9c	2	Award 0.5 marks for each CSS selector and declaration correctly outlined.	<p>Students are expected to outline the FOUR given CSS selectors and declarations. The following are possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The * selector indicates that all HTML elements will be styled according to the declarations contained within the curly brackets. In this case, all the text will be set to font Arial. ii. The # (id selector) indicates that the HTML element having id equal to <i>header</i> will be styled according to the declarations contained within the curly brackets. iii. The background declaration is used to set a light grey background colour behind the HTML element with id <i>header</i>. iv. The height declaration specifies that the HTML element with id <i>header</i> should be 60 pixels high. <p><i>Note: For Question 9c (iii) and (iv) a general outline of the declarations should not be accepted. Marks should only be awarded if the outline provided refers to the value of the declaration as per given code snippet.</i></p> <p><i>Note: For Question 9c (iii) and (iv), marks should still be awarded if reference is made to 'header' instead of 'HTML element with id header'.</i></p>