



Supporting candidates learning from home to prepare for computer-based practical tests

Supporting candidates learning from home to prepare for the practical tests in Cambridge IGCSE ICT (0417), Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) ICT (0983) and Cambridge International A Level IT (9626)

We understand that many centres and candidates are facing challenging times, and that some centres are having to teach practical IT skills remotely.

Practical IT skills are a vital part of our IT syllabuses. We assess these skills through formal tests under controlled conditions. To maintain the integrity of the tests, and the value of our qualifications for students, we encourage centres to teach the full syllabus content, whether remotely or face to face. There are currently no adaptations to the practical skills requirements for March or June 2021.

However, we understand that candidates do not always have access to proprietary (non-free) software that is licensed through their centre. This may be a significant barrier to candidates practising practical IT skills at home.

Using the centre's licensed software

Where candidates are learning remotely, we recommend that you first check your software licences to see if they allow candidates to use the software on their home computers. Some centres have academic licences that allow this. Other centres are setting up remote access to their school systems for candidates or loaning out school laptops to candidates to continue their studies.

Finding free/open source software for candidates to use at home

As an assessment organisation, **we do not recommend** specific software that candidates can use in our ICT/IT qualifications. However, in these exceptional circumstances, we would like to support you by telling you what software other centres successfully use with their candidates. We have used centres' Supervisor's Report Folder (SRF) forms to collate details of some of the most commonly used software, both proprietary and free/open source.



If your school currently uses proprietary software, you may find that one of the free/open source alternatives listed in the tables on this factsheet allows candidates to practise their skills at home. If they become more familiar with this software than the software being used at the centre, you may wish to give them access to this software for use during the practical tests. **Any software used in a practical test must be able to operate in an offline mode without an internet connection.**

Use our forums

We also recommend that you access the 9626/0417/0983 forums on the School Support Hub. We have started a thread on each forum for teachers to discuss challenges and successes they have had in remote teaching. There are also ideas about software for candidates to use to practise their practical IT skills from home.



Cambridge IGCSE ICT (0417)/Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) ICT (0983)

	Purchase/subscription	Open source/Free
Spreadsheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Calc • Google Sheets (web based, not for use in the test)
Databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Base (the Oracle Report Builder extension for Apache OpenOffice Base may also be a useful tool)
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft PowerPoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Impress
Images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Photoshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Paint • GIMP • Inkscape • Blender
Document production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Writer
Web authoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Dreamweaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notepad, Notepad++ • Microsoft Expression • Wix (web based, not for use in the test) • W3Schools has an online interface to test HTML and view the output (web based, not for use in the test)

Cambridge International A Level IT (9626)

	Purchase/subscription	Open source/Free
Spreadsheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Calc • Google Sheets (web based, not for use in the test)
Databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Base (the Oracle Report Builder extension for Apache OpenOffice Base may also be a useful tool)
Sound editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Audition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audacity
Video editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Movie Maker Pro • Adobe Premier Pro • Movavi Video Editor • Filmora (free version available, with logo on exported files) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MiniTool MovieMaker • Microsoft Movie Maker 10
Graphics creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Photoshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Paint • GIMP • Inkscape • Blender
Animation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Animate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencil2D • Synfig Studio
Word processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apache OpenOffice Writer
Programming for the web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Dreamweaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notepad, Notepad++ • Microsoft Expression • W3Schools has an online interface to test HTML and view the output (web based, not for use in the test)

Learn more! For more information please visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/exams/officers or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email info@cambridgeinternational.org