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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Tuesday 18 November 2014 (morning)

1 hour 15 minutes

ARTICLE

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet contains the article required for information technology in a global society higher level and standard level paper 2.

Theme: Education and training

IT system: Using mobile technologies and WiFi in schools



The increasing demand for access to mobile technologies by teachers and students has caused schools to consider implementing BYOD programmes. BYOD means “Bring Your Own Device”, whereby students bring their own personal mobile computing devices from home to use in school. The above image illustrates the wide range of devices that students may choose to use: laptop computers, tablet devices and *smart* phones.

Some schools have already implemented BYOD programmes. One of the biggest challenges has been providing a well-defined step-by-step process that allows students to connect their mobile devices to the school’s WiFi network. Students are required to register their device with the IT manager in order to access the WiFi network. The school also requires that the device must have certain applications installed on it, such as a calendar, mapping tool, and note-taking capability.

In some schools, BYOD programmes have been quite successful and popular leading to significant advantages for teachers and students. However, students’ access to mobile computing technologies in the classroom and around the school has led to concerns from teachers, IT managers and school administrators. For example, one teacher did not understand how “syncing” devices could have allowed their private files to be accidentally shared with other personal devices and the school network. Moreover, some students have been caught using their devices inappropriately.

Students are using a wide range of different mobile devices, which makes it difficult for teachers when planning and delivering lessons. Technical problems may arise during lessons that some teachers do not understand and cannot resolve. Moreover, IT managers are seriously concerned
20 about maintaining the security of the school network and restricting student access to certain websites.

However, some schools have developed effective ways of overcoming these challenges.

[Source: This article originally appeared on Cult of Mac, a technology and lifestyle publication centered on Apple products and the culture they invigorate, www.cultofmac.com]
