

Two things cost this subject marks: writing everyday English where the syllabus has a technical term, and answering in general terms where the question set a scenario. Everything below is from Cambridge’s own examiner reports. 失分主要有两点: 用日常语言代替专业术语, 以及脱离题目情境泛泛而答。

Across every paper

- ✗

Answering in everyday words – ‘the computer remembers it’, ‘it makes things faster’.
- ✓

Use the syllabus term: ‘the value is stored in the accumulator’, ‘cache reduces the average access time’.

Named in six separate reports. The technical words have defined meanings and marks are awarded for using them.
必须用专业术语

ER 6 sessions P1
- ✗

Describing a benefit in general terms when the question named a company, a system or a file.
- ✓

Answer inside the scenario: ‘the supermarket’s stock file is updated as each item is scanned’.

Examiners state that answers must refer to the given context to receive maximum credit – 9618 emphasises application over recall.
要结合题目情境作答

ER 3 sessions P1
- ✗

Answering an EXPLAIN question with the detail you would give for DESCRIBE.
- ✓

EXPLAIN needs a reason: not just what happens, but why it has that effect.

The most repeated command-word point in these reports, raised in seven sessions.
“ 解释 ” 要给原因

ER 7 sessions P1
- ✗

Making the same point twice in different words to fill two marks.
- ✓

Make each point sufficiently different that it stands alone.

Examiners state plainly that two marks are not awarded for two statements that mean the same thing.
两点必须实质不同

ER 2 sessions P1
- ✗

Giving ‘memory management’ when the question said ‘describe two OTHER operating system tasks’.
- ✓

Read for what the question excludes as well as what it asks.

Examiners give this exact example: specific answers are sometimes ruled out by the stem.
看清题目排除了哪些答案

ER 2 sessions P1
- ✗

Leaving a pseudocode algorithm question blank because the whole algorithm looks hard.
- ✓

Write the part you can – the loop, the condition, the assignment.

Examiners state these questions are at least partially accessible to most candidates. Nothing can be awarded for a blank.
算法题写出会的部分

ER 6 sessions P1

- Prepare with the published pseudocode guide, especially for user-defined types, file handling and algorithm construction. Examiners recommend it in eight separate reports.

熟悉官方伪代码指南

ER 8 sessions P1

1 · Information representation 信息表示

- ✗

Explaining an overflow by saying ‘the answer was greater than 255’ or ‘the answer has 9 bits’.
- ✓

State the word size the question gave, then say the result cannot be represented in it.

Examiners record candidates assuming 8-bit values when the question specified otherwise, so the reasoning was right and the answer wrong.
先看题目给的位数

EX P1
- ✗

Drawing two lines from one row of a truth table to be safe.
- ✓

Draw exactly one line per row.

Examiners note candidates drawing more than one line where the question asked for one – the extra line loses the mark.
一行只连一条线

EX P1

8 · Databases 数据库

- ✗

Answering a relationship question with ‘one-to-many’.
- ✓

Name the tables: one SHOW to many PERFORMANCEs.

Examiners accepted the named form and rejected the bare cardinality – without the table names it does not answer the question.
要写出表名

EX P1

10 · Data Types and Structures 数据类型与数据结构

- ✗

Saying an array makes ‘the data easier to access’.
- ✓

Name the structure the question named: an array OF RECORDS lets each field be accessed by name within one indexed element.

Examiners record that answers referring only to ‘an array’ were not awarded, because the question asked about an array of records.
要写 “ 记录数组 ”

EX P1
- ✗

Creating an array called TheTree when the question wanted a class instance.
- ✓

Declare an instance of the class: ‘TheTree = NEW BinaryTree()’.

A named error. An array is not an object, so none of the methods that follow can be called on it.
要实例化类, 不是建数组

EX P4
- ✗

Initialising a node’s left and right pointers by assigning parameter values to them.
- ✓

Initialise both pointers to –1 (or null) and take only the data as a parameter.

Examiners list taking three parameters instead of one, and assigning to the pointers, as the common constructor errors.
指针初始化为 –1

EX P4

✗ Passing an integer to a constructor that expects a Node.

✓ **Pass the element itself, so no new Node has to be declared inside.**

Examiners note this forced candidates to declare extra Node objects, which then broke the tree structure.

参数类型要对 EX P4

11 · Programming 程序设计

✗ Writing a Python method without ‘self’ in the parameter list.

✓ **‘def InsertNode(self, NewNode):’ – every method takes ‘self’ first.**

Listed as a common error in two separate questions. The code will not run, so the marks for it cannot be awarded.

Python 方法要写 self EX P4

✗ Assigning constructor parameters to attributes and also declaring them as parameters again.

✓ **Take the parameter once, assign it to the attribute once.**

Named among the constructor errors; the duplication produces attributes that are never the ones used.

构造器参数只赋值一次 EX P4

✗ Calling a function and not storing what it returns.

✓ **Assign the result: ‘SortedArray ← BubbleSort(MyArray, 7)’.**

Listed repeatedly – the function runs, the answer is computed, and it is thrown away.

返回值要接住 EX P4

✗ Calling a search function with the original unsorted array.

✓ **Sort first, then pass the sorted array, and show that you did.**

Examiners require the sorted array to be used AND to be visibly used; a binary search on unsorted data is meaningless.

二分查找前要先排序 EX P4

✗ Calling a function with the array length one out – 6 for a seven-element array, or the last index instead of the length.

✓ **Decide whether the parameter is a LENGTH or an INDEX, and check the last element is included.**

Both forms are listed as common errors, and each silently drops the final element.

分清长度与下标 EX P4

✗ Using the input as a filename directly.

✓ **Append the extension the question specified: ‘FileName ← Choice & “.txt”’.**

A named error: the file then never opens, so nothing downstream can score.

文件名要加扩展名 EX P4

✗ Closing a file inside the loop that reads it.

✓ **Close it once, after the loop has finished.**

Examiners describe candidates closing the file and then attempting to read more, or having to reopen it.

循环结束后再关文件 EX P4

19 · Computational thinking and Problem-solving 计算思维与问题求解

✗ Writing an iterative function for a question that asked for a recursive one.

✓ **The function must call itself, and the call must reduce the problem.**

Examiners list writing an iterative function with no recursive call, and including a loop AS WELL AS the recursion, as common errors.

递归函数必须自我调用 EX P4

✗ Making a recursive call without reducing the parameter.

✓ **Subtract one: ‘RETURN Total(NumberElements - 1)’.**

Named as an inaccurate recursive call. Without the reduction the recursion never terminates.

递归参数要递减 EX P4

✗ Overwriting a parameter inside the function before it has been used.

✓ **Read the parameter first, then reuse the variable if you must.**

Listed as a common error in two separate recursion questions – the original value is gone before the recursive call needs it.

参数用完再改 EX P4

✗ Converting a recursive routine to an iterative one by renaming the identifier.

✓ **Remove the recursive call AND add the loop that replaces it.**

Examiners describe both halves being left undone: the call remained, or it went and nothing took its place.

改写迭代要真的加循环 EX P4

✗ Printing every element when the question asked for the nodes.

✓ **Output what was asked: for each node, the left pointer, the data and the right pointer.**

Both faults are listed together – outputting too much, and outputting only the data.

按要求输出内容 EX P4

The practical paper – evidence and screenshots

✗ Pasting part of a program into the evidence document.

✓ **Copy ALL of it, including every closing bracket and END statement, and check the indentation survived.**

Examiners require the complete code in the answer space, and note that Python candidates in particular must check their indentation is intact.

代码要完整粘贴 ER 2 sessions P4

✗ Showing only the output and not the input that produced it.

✓ **Screenshot the whole run – the prompt, what was typed, and every line of output.**

Listed repeatedly: outputs cut off, only the first few results shown, or the input missing entirely.

输入输出都要截图

EX P4

✗ Outputting the results but not the value the question also asked for.

✓ **Reread the question and check every requested item appears – the word AND the percentage, the count AND the list.**

Examiners list this pattern in four separate questions; the code was right and the output incomplete.

每一项都要输出

EX P4

✗ Putting an answer in the wrong space in the evidence document, or deleting spaces you did not use.

✓ **Leave every answer space in place and put each piece of evidence in its own.**

Examiners state this explicitly. Evidence in the wrong space cannot be marked as if it were in the right one.

答案要放在对应位置

ER 2 sessions P4

■ A screenshot must be legible. Examiners record evidence that could not be read, which is the same as evidence that was not provided.

截图要清晰可读

EX P4