

Part (e) Implementation

(i) Technical documentation

The candidate needs to produce a technical guide. This is not as complex as it sounds because the majority of the evidence has already been produced elsewhere. It is only necessary to use pointers to evidence if it exists somewhere else. So, for example, if a program listing is needed, then the candidate should put a heading 'Program listing' followed by a comment to the effect: 'See pages 10 and 11'. There is no point in producing all the evidence twice, once for the report and once for the technical documentation. However, it is important that all the headings are present and that either a pointer to evidence or the evidence itself is there. This demonstrates to the moderator that the candidate understands the requirements of technical documentation and also that they practice producing some as it comes in the theory section 1.7 (h) and may well be examined in the theory paper.

If we bear in mind the fact that much of this evidence already exists, it is unlikely that the technical documentation will be more than 2 pages.

Evidence required

Note that the evidence for different projects will tend to differ because they will have different requirements. The following list reflects a typical problem solution which follows the same type of problem solution that I have suggested.

- descriptions of the data to include reasons for inclusion and the data types/lengths that will be used
- details of the security measures used to protect the data in the file, including passwords and back-up procedures
- diagrams to illustrate the solution (in my case the sensible one is a flowchart, which already exists so I will simply give a page reference)
- annotated program listings (again this already exists)
- hardware and software specifications for use of the system

(ii) Installation instructions

Whatever form the solution takes it will be necessary to tell the end user how to install the program on to the computer ready for use and also how to run the program. The suggestion is that in order to make these instructions user friendly it may well be a good idea to use diagrams to illustrate the process. Do not waste time and energy trying to draw diagrams using the computer software, unless you particularly want to. Simple hand drawn diagrams are ideal.

There is very little evidence to be provided here but with a diagram to illustrate the process it may take a page of A4.

Evidence required

- instructions how to transfer the code onto the user's computer (probably from a floppy disk or a CD)
- how to set up a password to protect the data (if a password system has been included in the code)
- how to run the program once it has been installed.