SHIELD SOFTWARE

'O' LEVEL EXAMINERS

MULTIPLE CHOICE PAPERS

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ FULL SYLLABUS EXAM        QUESTIONS : 20      │
│                                               │
│ QUESTION NO. 20       ANSWERS SO FAR : 20     │
├───────────────────────────────────────────────┤
│  EXAM REVIEW                                  │
│     YOU MAY NOW REVIEW YOUR EXAM BY           │
│     COMPARING YOUR OWN ANSWERS WITH           │
│     THE CORRECT ONES WHICH WILL BE            │
│     IDENTIFIED BY AN ARROW '←'.               │
│                                               │
│     THE COMMAND KEYS ARE UNCHANGED            │
│     SAVE THAT 'I' NOW INDEXES THE             │
│     CORRECT AND INCORRECT ANSWERS.            │
│                                               │
│                                               │
│     A BLANK 'YOUR ANSWER' IMPLIES             │
│     THAT NO ANSWER WAS OFFERED.               │
│                                               │
│        PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE              │
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FULL SYLLABUS OR SPECIALISED EXAMS
OVER 100,000 POSSIBLE EXAMS
GRADED RESULTS FOR EACH EXAM
FULL REVIEW OF EVERY EXAM

CONTENTS

This program has been designed for use by students studying for any GCE O-Level or equivalent exam. To ensure maximum compatibility with the student's needs, syllabus information can be entered at the start of the program.

The O-Level examiners can be used to check on a student's general progress, by offering repeated exams of a similar standard. Perhaps its most important function, however, is to offer an analysis of the student's performance in specific areas of the syllabus. This can save the student invaluable time and effort by pointing out exactly where his or her problem lies, so that revision can start exactly where it is needed most. For those using revision software, it allows you to choose software for the specific area concerned rather than a more general package of less depth.

LOADING THE PROGRAM
To load the program, reposition the tape to the beginning
and type: SPECTRUM – LOAD""
              BBC B – CHAIN""
              CBM64 – LOAD""
              AMSTRAD – RUN"
              MSX – CLOAD

If an attempt to load is unsuccessful, make sure that the tape is correctly positioned, check all leads, and try adjusting any volume control that you may have. If all else fails, remember that side two of the cassette is a copy of side one.

ENDING THE PROGRAM
To end a program, simply select the 'EXIT FROM PROGRAM' option in the main menu. (Selecting 'X' in the review section returns you to the first menu.)

The program commences with a prompt for you to enter details of the syllabus. This allows you to declare which of the given topics, if any, are outside your syllabus. Those selected will be automatically excluded from the exam. Following this you may choose between a full-syllabus exam and a specialised exam. For the full syllabus exam, you may also select the number of questions which are to be set.

At the end of each exam, a graded result and an overall percentage are given. For full-syllabus exams, the result is broken down into three specialised sections drawn from the nucleus of the syllabus with a percentage mark being given for each one. The estimated grade given alongside the overall percentage is an estimate of the student's ability on a scale of 'A' to 'E' for passes and 'F' for fail.

Following their marks, students may review their exam, by going through the questions and comparing their own answers with the correct ones. An index of correct and incorrect answers is available at this stage to save the student from having to 'hunt' for questions that were wrongly answered.

You should not attempt to 'break' into the program. This will cause the program to either 'hang' or be cleared from memory. Should this occur accidently, simply reset your computer as described in your manual and reload as if starting again.

FULL SYLLABUS EXAMS

Full-syllabus exams start with a menu for the number of questions to be set. Each exam will contain questions taken from anywhere in the syllabus excepting those areas previously declared for exclusion. In general, it is recommended that students select as many questions as possible in order to maximise the reliability of the exam mark.

Students should start by sitting a full-syllabus exam with the maximum possible number of questions. This will offer the first analysis of the student's capabilities and will highlight any areas of weakness.

SPECIALISED EXAMS

Specialised exams allow you to confine an exam to one of the three available specialised areas which are selected from the most important parts of the syllabus.

Specialised exams always consist of ten questions and can be used in one of two ways: 1) To locate areas of difficulty, or 2) To provide feedback on the progress of revision in that particular area.

TIME TARGETS

Each exam has a time target associated with it. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the exam is completed within this time. So as not to prevent the completion of an exam, no software enforcement is in operation.

CHEMISTRY EXAMS

In the Chemistry examiner, wide use is made of the 'True/False' format. In this format 3 statements are given for which the student must select the correct T/F sequence, i.e. if statement 1 and 2 are True and statement 3 is False, then choose 'T,T,F'.

THE EXAMS

Exams automatically start at question '1', but you may answer the questions in any order you wish, moving from one question to another via the control keys which are described below. An index is maintained throughout the exam which can tell you at any time which of the questions you have answered, and which remain.

The number of the question currently being viewed is displayed towards the left of the screen, while the number of answers that have been received is shown towards the right of the screen. Answers are entered by pressing one of the keys 'A' to 'E'. A 'Help' screen describing the control keys can always be accessed by pressing 'H'.

If you are viewing a question that you have already answered, your current answer will be displayed for you to check. You may change your answer as many times as you wish – only the most recent answer is considered when marking.

During the exam you will need to move from one question to another. This is achieved by using one of the following control keys:

> F – Forward one question
> G – Go back one question
> I – View question index
> J – Jump to any question
> Q – Quit exam/Await mark

Marking takes place immediately after the decision is taken to quit the exam. For both types of exam, an overall percentage is given, along with an estimated grade. It should be remembered that this grade is based on a scale of 'A' to 'E' for passes and 'F' for fail. Should your examining board grade exams in a different way, then you should convert the given grade to the appropriate scale, or seek advice on the correlation between exam percentages and your own board's grades.

If you are sitting a full-syllabus exam, then you will be provided with a breakdown of the mark into the three specialised categories. Particular attention should be paid to these marks, and records should be kept of successive results. A consistent weakness in any one area indicates that a problem exists, and you should revise the topics appropriate to that particular area. You can keep a check on the progress of such revision by sitting specialised exams for the area involved.

Should you have persistent problems in one particular area, you should seek help at your school or place of learning. It will help those assisting you to show them the records of your marks, particularly those in your 'problem area'.

After you have received your marks, you will be given the opportunity to review your performance by looking through the questions and comparing your own answers with the correct ones.

It is important for you to distinguish between those questions that were incorrectly answered due to a small mistake and those which you simply could not understand. Those in the latter category should be recorded and advice should be sought.

To make your review more useful, you should refrain from making 'blind' guesses at the questions, even though no marks are deducted for an incorrect answer.

During the review, the same control keys are in operation as in the exam section except that the 'I' key, which previously indexed answered and unanswered questions, now indexes correct and incorrect answers.

Examiner programs available from Shield Software:

Maths O-Level Examiner
Provides both full-syllabus exams and specialist exams in the following areas:

Algebra
Trig/Vectors/Matrices
Geometry/Set Theory

Physics O-Level Examiner
Provides both full-syllabus exams and specialist exams in the following areas:

Mechanics
Energy/Heat/Waves
Electricity/Radioactivity

Chemistry O-Level Examiner
Provides both full-syllabus exams and specialist exams in the following areas:

Metals/Organic
Structure/General
Non-metals/Redox