20–22 Design a complex computer model to provide the solution to a given task.

Candidates will describe the task they are undertaking. They will then produce a design or designs of the spreadsheet structure. This will involve them drawing up a table of column headings, cell contents and formulae.

Give reasons, related to the task, for choosing a piece of software for the solution.

Candidates will refer to their task description and list what the software will be required to do. There must be a comparison with an alternative piece of software describing how their choice fulfils these requirements.

Use the software to construct the computer model.

Candidates must provide printouts of two or three stages in the construction of their spreadsheet, including printouts of the model with formulae printed.

Use the software to provide the answers required to solve the problem.

In their introduction to the task the candidates will have written about some uses of their spreadsheets. They must now include some predictions and some before and after printouts illustrating these predictions and their results.

Write about how valid this model is in solving the task.

Candidates must refer back to the task brief and comment on how realistic their solution is compared with the original task description. Does it solve the problem? What changes would need to be made to make it a valid model?

23–25 Write about how the model was created.

Candidates will need to produce a detailed description of how they created their model including all the features of the software used.

26–28 Write about how suitable the software was for this purpose.

Candidates will produce an evaluation of the software and how easy it was to create and use the model using the software.