

011 An algorithm a day...

Algorithm Question

Source: OCR GCSE Computing Specimen Exam

A display board can show a flashing message of up to 20 characters.



Write an algorithm in pseudocode which:

- Allows the user to input the message and the number of flashes
- Rejects the message if it is longer than 20 characters and stops
- Otherwise it repeatedly displays the message and clears the display for the correct number of times.

[5 marks]

Algorithm Example Answer

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*****There are always different ways to solve a problem. This algorithm is just an example. What is important is that the logic is correct!*****

LOGIC:

- **Inputs message and number of flashes**
- **If length of message > 20, output error message and stop**
- **Otherwise run a loop which will**
- **... flash the message**
- **... for the correct number of times**

EXAMPLE ALGORITHM:

```
INPUT Message
INPUT NumberOfFlashes
IF length(Message) > 20 Then
    OUTPUT "This message is too long"
ELSE
    FOR i = 1 to NumberOfFlashes
        Display Message
        Wait
        Clear Message
        Wait
    NEXT i
END IF
```