BCS Higher Education Qualification

Diploma

April 2025

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Web Application Development

Questions Report:

A1	
	The question was answered by most candidates and has a low average mark, although all gained a passing mark. The marks range was relatively small, but this is acceptable for the small number of candidates entered. Most candidates had a reasonable idea of the MVC architecture but some of the descriptions of push and pull architecture seemed rather confused. Candidates needed to concentrate more on the scenario and less on regurgitating bookwork to obtain full marks.
A2	
	The question was answered by all candidates and has an acceptable average mark, although almost all a passing mark. The marks range was relatively small, but this is acceptable for the small number of candidates entered. There were some interesting and incorrect descriptions of front-end and back-end functions. Candidates also needed to discuss succinctly how the two work together to produce an effective product. In writing a draft job description candidates needed to clearly state the requirements for the role envisaged, rather than regurgitate the textbook contents. There seemed in some cases to be little actual understanding of the role envisaged.
A3	
	The question was answered by very few candidates and has a very high average mark, although almost all a passing mark. The marks range was small, but this is acceptable for the small number of candidates entered. The few candidates who attempted this question generally kept to the scenario and answered appropriately. The test cases were mostly highly appropriate and so achieved high marks. Candidates also clearly differentiated between behaviour-based development and test-based development.
B4	
	Most candidates were able to describe the core components of service-oriented architecture. However, many could have achieved higher marks had they referenced relevant frameworks and provided illustrative examples, particularly when drawing comparisons with microservices.
B5	

	Students generally responded well to this question. The primary shortcoming observed was a lack of sufficient detail in their explanations, which limited the overall clarity and depth of the responses.
B6	
	Candidate responses to this question were generally weak. Although many demonstrated a basic awareness of the components underpinning a GDPR-compliant system, few were able to elaborate on these elements with the analytical depth expected at this level. In most cases, responses were limited to the mere listing of terms, with little to no explanatory context. This pattern raises concerns regarding the extent to which students engage critically with the material, suggesting a reliance on rote memorisation rather than conceptual comprehension. Moreover, there was limited evidence of candidates' ability to integrate data protection principles meaningfully within the framework of web development, indicating a disconnect between theoretical knowledge and its practical application.