

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Professional Graduate Diploma

April 2025

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Software Engineering 2

Questions Report:

A1	
	<p>This question was answered by just over a third of candidates and a little over half of these gained a passing mark. The average mark was a little low and the range of marks awarded was very wide.</p> <p>Some very interesting (and incorrect) definitions were given to thin client and fat client, but those that defined them correctly giving reasonable descriptions.</p> <p>Part b) is based on describing a three-tier model and defining the functionality at each tier. There was a lot of confusion about the role and location of the simulation software which needs to be located in the middle (application) layer so that it has access to the main data stores. Customisation should be done by modifying the presentation of the simulated data in the first (presentation) layer. Once this is established everything else should fall into place.</p>
A2	
	<p>This question was attempted by the fewest number of candidates (a third) and only 40% passed. The average mark was very low and the range of marks was very wide.</p> <p>This should have been a very straightforward question as the reliability metrics for each case are very well known. There were a large number of muddled answers and confusion over the definition of appropriate values for each. This led to a failure to properly justify the rationale for the choice.</p>
A3	
	<p>Nearly 50% of candidates attempted this question with three quarters passing. The average mark was low but acceptable and the marks range was very high.</p> <p>Candidates were mostly happy with the definitions of pre- and post- conditions. They were less so with UML diagrams. The Use Case diagrams had too few linkages between users, so how was information to be passed between them? Key information added would include the need for some sort of authentication to protect personal information and the need for the administrator to have an overview of the status of all potholes.</p> <p>Candidates may propose other assumptions they have clearly used that are appropriate.</p> <p>The principal assumption for the sequence diagram is the timing.</p>
B4	

	<p>This question was attempted by all candidates with almost all attaining a passing mark and an overall average which was at the higher end of the acceptable range. There was a good range of marks.</p> <p>Most marks were lost by candidates giving answers which appeared to be simple bookwork, and did not show any evidence of deeper understanding or personal adaption.</p>
B5	
	<p>This question was attempted by most candidates with an acceptable average mark. Again, a wide range of marks with most candidates obtaining a passing grade.</p> <p>Again, more marks could have been obtained by tailoring the answers more closely to the scenario rather than simply giving bookwork descriptions of the techniques described.</p>