

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Professional Graduate Diploma

April 2023

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Network Information Systems

Questions Report:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| A1 | <p>This question was a popular choice, and most candidates were able to answer section a) well. However, although consistency and availability were understood, there were fewer candidates who understood the concept of partition tolerance, and answers were often let down by not explaining the CAP theorem in full, but only describing the three aspects.</p> <p>Likewise answers to b) were often generally good but failed to look at the specifics of the question. Part c) was answered well by many, but clearly not well understood in all cases. Candidates should look carefully at the marks on offer in a question, when making question choices, as leaving a part blank that carried eleven marks will not achieve a high mark on the whole.</p> |
| A2 | <p>Although not as popular as question A1, those who chose this question often demonstrated good knowledge of the topic. Candidates understood the concept of RTT, but a few failed to recognise it is a time for a request to be sent and a response received (i.e., there and back). There was some strong answers on the slow start aspects although a few candidates confused it with other mechanisms.</p> <p>The use of diagrams in answers illustrated that candidates had understood the mechanism. Regarding the final part, candidates reiterated their round trip time answers, however full marks required understanding that latency is caused by known causes of delay, and that RTT is a measure of it.</p> |
| B3 | <p>The most popular question concerning security, encryption, and digital signature. All candidates have shown good understanding of the use of encryption keys, but to a lesser degree digital signatures and certificates.</p> |
| B4 | <p>Fairly popular question, many candidates have attempted it, but the approach undertaken has shown lack of systematic knowledge about the subject. There have been sub-optimal solutions and the use of IP addresses was inconsistent. The approach to the architecture of the network however was positive.</p> |
| B5 | <p>Two candidates attempted this question. The candidates did not answer fully which may show that the technical knowledge is missing.</p> |