

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Diploma

April 2023

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Computer Networks

Questions Report:

A1	
	<p>This was a popular question however on occasion candidates gave overly lengthy responses to straight forward questions. The last part was not answered well by most students and performed poorly.</p> <p>This question was popular with candidates. Most candidates did not provide a detailed discussion for part a) there seemed to be some confusion as candidates spoke on local topologies rather than WAN solutions. Part b) was well understood by the majority of candidates with good marks awarded. Part c) was not answered well by many candidates with some listing characteristics without explanations or comparisons.</p>
A2	
	<p>Not many students chose this question and those who did, did poorly. Improvement is needed in this area.</p> <p>This question was attempted by a small number of candidates. For all parts candidates listed full names for the acronyms however with limited explanation of their function. A lack of depth in explanation and description limited marks awarded.</p>
A3	
	<p>Another popular question however many students seemingly were unaware of layer 2 technologies such as STP. The last part was missed out by many, possibly suggesting a knowledge gap to be addressed by future students.</p> <p>This question was attempted by a number of candidates however responses were poor. Part a) of this question was not attempted by many candidates, resilient protocols were not well understood. Part b) was not well answered with a number of candidates not discussing Spanning Tree. Part c) was not understood by the majority of candidates.</p>
B4	
	<p>The last parts were not answered to reasonable standards as many did not understand quality of service or the types there are.</p> <p>Part a) was well answered by candidates with the correct services identified for traffic types. Part b) was poorly answered with most candidates unaware of Diffserv architecture. Parts c) and d) were answered by a small number of candidates. Awareness of QoS techniques as a whole was limited in the responses given.</p>
B5	
	<p>Many did not attempt this question. Of those who attempted it, the relevant diagram was not drawn correctly and key information was omitted.</p> <p>For part a) awareness of the role of Manchester encoding was limited amongst candidate responses. For part b) diagrams were provided without axis names nor explanations of items, which limited marks awarded.</p>

B6	
	<p>A popular question where candidates gained many marks. The major issue was encryption and what layer it starts at. The use of encapsulation is also something that needed to be addressed as many could not express how it worked.</p> <p>This question was popular among candidates. Part a) was well answered with the majority of candidates receiving high marks. For part b) most candidates identified the correct layer for compression and encryption but were unable to expand on how this operates for higher marks. For part c), there was confusion between the TCP/IP and OSI models. PDUs were not mentioned by the majority of candidates.</p>