BCS Higher Education Qualification

Diploma

March 2019

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Principles of Internet Technologies

Question number: A1
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
This was the least attempted question in Section A but those who sat it showed a basic understanding of what was being asked. In part (a), most candidates could expand upon the JavaScript terms. In regards to part (b), many candidates aptly demonstrated that they could write a JavaScript function to answer the question. And the final part, there was a broad knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of using JavaScript.

Question number: A2
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The most attempted question by far in this section. However by and large it was not answered well. The answers for the web authoring concepts in part (a) did seem to be guess work. Though in part (b), it was encouraging to see a good grasp of 'responsive' web design. Part (c) also seemed to be guess work but in part (d) most candidates could demonstrate a basic knowledge of client/server architecture. Candidates need to be aware of the difference between a web page and a web application.

Question number: A3
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The second most attempted question in Section A. Candidates tended to answer part (c) extremely well. There was a good understanding of the differences between XML and HTML in part (a) and (b) showed a similar level of understanding. In part (d), there was a drop in the standard of the candidates' attempts to answer this question.

Question number: B4
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
A majority of candidates attempt this question and, generally, scored well. Parts a) and b) were answered well, but some candidates were unsure of the TCP/IP model layers and would often use a mixture of the OSI model and/or TCP/IP. Note this question does explicitly ask for TCP/IP model. There are fewer layers in the TCP/IP model compared to the OSI model.

Part c) was answered reasonably well, but many candidates failed to correctly provide two applications that would make use of TCP.

Answers to Part d) were the weakest. Diagrams were often simplistic and lacked detail. Many diagrams just showed a client with an arrow to some notion of a DNS server. This is a level 5 exam paper, so the quality of the answer must show a clear understanding of the fundamentals surrounding DNS. That said, there were still some excellent answers to this question.

Question number: B5
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
This was another popular question for this section, with over two-thirds of candidates attempting it. However, it was the weakest answered question with the majority not obtaining a pass grade. Many candidates opted to try and guess their way to an answer, which doesn't really work for technical subjects. Parts a), b) and c) were either answered well or poorly, there appeared to be no middle ground. If the candidate knew the purpose of the technologies, then they'd invariably get full marks. Those that guessed usually received no marks as it was evident there was little or no understanding. Part d) was generally well answered. The last time this question appeared many candidates, incorrectly, wrote about physically connecting to the Internet. This time, the majority understood web accessibility a little better and would usually score some marks, here. Part e) was a traditional networking question, and those with a good technical knowledge received full marks. The biggest reason for mark loss was poorly labelled diagrams that did not illustrate DHCP's purpose.

Question number: B6
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
This was the least popular question within the section and saw a little under two-thirds attempt it. The majority of those that did, passed this question. Part a) was often weakly answered, but only because candidates would not know one or more of the listed technologies or were unable to expand the acronym for top marks. Complete answers were generally good. Part b) Candidates were briefly expected to discuss the benefits of devices that are always connected to the Internet while highlighting the privacy concerns surrounding such devices. Some candidates appeared not to understand the question and wrote, in a literal sense about being connected to the Internet. Part c) was answered much like part a). Part d) generated a lot of good answers and most candidates did secure top marks for this question.