BCS Higher Education Qualification

Profession Graduate Diploma[1]

November 2020[2]

EXAMINERS' REPORT

System Design Methods[3]

Question number: 1
Syllabus area: Basic Elements of System Design Methods
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The candidates answered all parts reasonably well. The main weakness was too much emphasis on specific modelling techniques (such as e.g. ERDs, DFDs, etc.) and not enough emphasis on the purpose of modelling activities.

Question number: 2
Syllabus area: Construction of a Method
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
In general this question caused many problems. Part a) Many answers were irrelevant or insufficient. Part b) Only a small number of candidates answered this part reasonably well. Many candidates discussed wrong techniques e.g. UML techniques, fact finding techniques or life cycle models(?)

Question number: 3
Syllabus area: Selecting a Method
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
Part a) Many candidates did not focus on clear discussion of both options and their pros and cons. Some candidates discussed "amending the whole system" vs "amending part of the system" instead. Part b) Most candidates answered this part reasonably well i.e. they identified characteristics of suitable projects and identified projects/applications not suitable for the Swift method.

Question number: 4
Syllabus area: Introducing a method
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The candidates answered part a) reasonably well demonstrating an awareness of approaches to assessing the effectiveness of a new systems design method. Part b) was also answered reasonably well in terms of appropriate actions with regard to introducing a new systems design method.

Question number: 5
Syllabus area: Evaluation and Tuning a method
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The candidates answered part a) reasonably well demonstrating an awareness of the differences between verification and validation. Part b) was also generally answered reasonably well in terms of the use of appropriate verification and validation techniques. Part c) was generally answered less well, in terms of awareness of method context and method user considerations.