BCS Higher Education Qualification

Certificate

May 2021

EXAMINERS' REPORT

COMPUTER AND NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

General comments

For Section A & B – the evidence suggests that many candidates still have a limited understanding of some areas of the curriculum they are being examined on. Many candidates tended to just write down the nearest "technical" dump of what they think they knew rather than actually addressing what the question was asking.

Questions Report:

Qu.[1]	Comment
A1	Popular question but not necessarily high scoring for many. It seems that the candidates in the majority of cases either misunderstood the question or did not know how to build the truth table. Strangely enough there were a few cases when truth table was built correctly but part (b) which relies on it was not implemented correctly.
A2	Not a particularly popular question but some good marks. Tendency for students to fail to read the question and start including monitors and other peripherals despite what the question says. In part (b) very few students have failed to understand the effect of clock rate.
A3	Even less popular question with a number of very good answers but equally as many very low scoring answers. Some students seem to know the reference model very well. Lack of knowledge of indirect addressing was evident.
A4	Very few candidates named all the parts of the computer memory management
B5	By far the most popular question.
B6	Very few answers to this question. Students may not have been familiar with this topic?
B7	Another popular question and generally well answered. Some candidates are not familiar with what a desktop computer is and seem to confuse with a mainframe.
B8	A low scoring question with marks usually picked up on differentiating between singe and multicore processors. Part (b) with Moore's Law was very confusing to those that answered and they generally lost marks
B9	Popular questions but not always well answered with many students repeating descriptions for the same things under different tittles and not understanding what spam and phishing actually are. Mentioning malware and also viruses/worms as separate things as well (when they are all part of malware).
B10	Popular but poorly answered questions, many students could not define cloud properly or define SaaS/PaaS/IaaS in any meaningful way. Often quoted the same example for all three.
B11	Some good answers but also some very poor responses. There is tendency to try and quote the TCPIP reference model which is not the question.
B12	One of the least popular questions with mostly single figures in terms of marks.