

Examiner Report	
Qualification Name	Higher Education Qualification
Qualification Level	Diploma
Date/ Series	April 2026
Module	Database Systems
Question no.	Comments
A1	A1 covered theoretical concepts and ER diagrams. The question was attempted by approximately 75% of all candidates and all those managed to pass the question. Answers were generally good. The most common mistake was that the managed relation between players was incorrectly modelled, relationships were not always captured with the required details. Translating the ERD into physical design was also generally achieved, but there were issues with identifying keys.
Question no.	Comments
A2	Almost all learners attempted this question with a success rate of almost 90%. So, again, answers were strong with the often recurring issue of NFs 'skipped'; some go directly from 0NF to 2NF or 1NF to 3NF. Question Part C required identification of dependencies and some candidates did not do that but rather went straight to redesign of the schema, introducing errors in the process. Part E required the design to be translated to SQL, and again there were issues with keys not being declared.
Question no.	Comments
A3	Only 10% of learners attempted this question, 50% of those passed. Problems here were not completing sub questions; but also capturing ideas of group by and order by that were required in some questions.
Question no.	comments

B4	This was attempted by 65% of learners of which 33% passed. Questions often lacked detail, but the key problem was that learners often did not answer the question asked. For example, when asked to describe how logical data impendence is addressed in 3-tier architecture many answers only described 3-tier but did not explore the concept of data independence. Similar for how views help with data independence, answers only described the concept of views. Understanding of NoSQL databases was reasonable, but answers were quite superficial and lacked technical detail required.
Question no.	Comments
B5	Answered by 70% of learners of which half passed. Questions often lacked detail, but the key problem was that learners often did not answer the question asked. The latter either happened because they only answered part of the question (e.g. on Part A only i. and not ii. were answered, losing a bulk of grades) or in Part B considering security the right permissions were identified but not on which tables they have to be applied to. In Part D focus was purely on security measures and areas such as audits or monitoring did not feature.
Question no.	Comments
B6	75% of students attempted this question but answers were quite vague leading to only 25% of those passing. ACID was expanded well, but explanations of what the terms mean was lacking. In Part C many did not answer some sub questions; most gave generic answers but not with reference to the given scenario as required. Answers lacked precision; 'access' is not sufficiently precise as there are many aspects to it.