BCS Higher Education Qualification

Professional Graduate Diploma

April 2025

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Systems Design Methods

Questions Report:

A1	
	Part a) Most candidates were able to sufficiently explain both types of diagrams. However, most candidates did not sufficiently explain how use case diagrams and activity diagrams relate to each other. Part b) As above, most candidates were able to sufficiently explain both types of diagrams. However, a substantial number of candidates did not attempt this question in full i.e. only a small number of candidates sufficiently explained how class and use case diagrams relate to each other. Many answers were general and concerned the differences and similarities between both diagrams. Part c) In general, the answers were rather disappointing. Many candidates discussed 'a deployment process' instead and related activities such as project planning, project scheduling, etc.
A2	
	Part a) Most candidates answered this part reasonably well. Some, however, discussed irrelevant topics e.g. life cycle models. Part b) Many candidates were able to provide sufficient answers e.g. they discussed how use case diagrams, storyboards, etc can be used. A few provided irrelevant answers. Part c) This part caused many problems. The main problem was an insufficient emphasis on prototyping.
A3	
	Part a) Many candidates did not discuss the differences and similarities concerned modelling techniques used in both types of methods. Instead, they concentrated on less significant aspects such as SDLC models used in both types of methods, etc. Part b) This part was generally answered well. Many candidates were able to explain why agile methods are suitable for projects with short timescales, and with unstable and unclear requirements.
B4	
	Part a) was generally answered well with students appropriately discussing the need to train developers and users in the use of a new systems design method. Part b) was typically answered well with students showing awareness of the problems and risk that can arise when introducing a new systems development method, and how to avoid these.

B5	
	Part a) was generally answered reasonably well with students showing awareness of the reasons for comparing and evaluating systems design methods. Part b) was typically answered well with students providing discussion of approaches to assess the benefits obtained through introducing a new systems design method. Part c) was typically answered reasonably well, however, some students were less aware of the suitability of some of criteria for assessing systems development methods.