

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Diploma

April 2025

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Big Data Management

Questions Report:

A1	
	<p>Approximately 3/4 of candidates answered this questions, but they generally performed well with most passing the question. Weaknesses were as usual in the level of relevant detail provided, but also in variety of the answer. For example, when asked for main challenges for organisations answers covered 2 to 4 of 10 relevant themes and repeated details pertaining to the covered ones in different words or for concepts related to data quality most answers only focused on accuracy. Examples for GDPR were generally good, but the definition was often omitted or very weak</p>
A2	
	<p>Approximately 3/4 of candidates answered this questions, with half of those achieving a pass on the question.</p> <p>As with A1 we have seen a lack of variety in the answers: answers to inhouse vs outsourced solutions for big data focused on pay as you go, speed, control and compliance but generally omitted other angles around flexibility for teams, remote working, software licenses, GDPR, vendor lock-in, etc. It is important to cover various angles as well as providing some depth to answers.</p>
A3	
	<p>All candidates attempted this question, with about half achieving a pass on the question.</p> <p>Clearly a very topical and welcome question, but there is a need to focus on the various angles in questions and look at depth of these not just explore one argument (in this case most arguments only focused on AI as solution for processing big data); some candidates also identified that BigData is used to train models. Those who focused on processing often only stated that without elaborating in which ways AI is used (good answers would have spoken about analytics, decision making, doing tasks humans are not good at etc.</p> <p>Part b) was only answered by few students, who did answer well.</p> <p>Answers in Part c) were very brief and usually lacked detail while part d was generally answered perfectly.</p>
B4	
	<p>Most learners answered this and two thirds of those passed the question.</p> <p>Part a) was usually answered well in terms of the concepts but lacked examples and identification of the typical volumes involved.</p>

	<p>Answers in part b) were very repetitive in a cost-cost-cost mantra rather than looking at a wider set of relevant factors such as variety and availability of skills needed, having and managing hardware needs and fluctuations in demand. Answers also lacked detail.</p>
B5	
	<p>About a third of learners answered this and answers were generally quite weak.</p> <p>The types of data store were understood at a high level, but answers lacked detail (one sentence is ok for a 1-mark question but not for 5 marks).</p> <p>Answers to part b) identified the use of XML/JSON but very few considered load balancing, distribution, and the wider aspects. Again, answers were lacking detail.</p>
B6	
	<p>Only a few students answered this. Answers were weak.</p> <p>Very few answers identified that the CAP theorem says that you can have 2 out of 3, which is the most important point.</p> <p>For part b) the answers spoke about what Casandra is but were not able to identify features such as replication; scalability was not mentioned and neither consistency.</p>