BCS Higher Education Qualification

Professional Graduate Diploma

April 2025

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Network Information Systems

Questions Report:

A1	
	Although not as popular as question 2, many of those who answered this question showed good understanding and preparation.
	Part a) showed good knowledge all round but note that it was only 4 marks – some answers went well beyond the required detail at this point, which may impact on time remaining for other question parts. Candidates should bear in mind the mark allocation as an indication of the relative importance of the question parts.
	Part b) showed that some candidates had not appreciated the hierarchical nature of the DNS, nor did they understand how resolvers are required to be configured.
	Parts c) and d) had all candidates who attempted this gaining some credit, but there was frequent confusion about part d) even though the format for the answer was available to candidates in part c).
A2	
	This was a popular question, and candidates were largely well prepared for it.
	Answers to part a) generally met the marking criteria, although some made assumptions about one that could be applied to the other.
	Part b) was often answered well but candidates should note the wording of the question, which asked for answer to included topology, data transmission, and basic security. Many answers failed to incorporate some or all of these.
	Part c) was again answered well, showing candidates had prepared for this, and likewise in part d), it was pleasing to see that many were able to articulate the terms requested, and generally all aspects of that part were covered.
B3	
	This was a very popular question – around 60% of all students attempted it.
	The analysis of the marks for part a) show that all candidates were able to explain elements such as what HTTP is and how to use it. However, with finer details, such as explaining methods or commands in the protocol, the results were less impressive. Most relied on their general knowledge.
	Part b) showed very detailed knowledge of the parts a URL consists of. Almost nobody made a mistake there.

	The answers for part c) showed that generally all candidates know the difference between secure and non-secure HTTP, but very few know the significance of having digital signature and how it is used.
B4	
	This question was the least popular. Only 5 people attempted it. Part a) of the question related to REST protocol and generally everybody was able to answer correctly and explain its characteristics. Less obvious was its statelessness and what it means. Part b) was a stumbling block for all attempting it. More specifically no one answered correctly what idempotent and non- idempotent is. Part c) and part d) both were very few marks each and had to present specific knowledge about the web services, but all participants tried with various level of success to answer them using general knowledge they have gathered on the subject.
B5	
	The last question was as popular as B3 and related to the workings of the Internet and general networking. Part a) was well known by almost everybody (with few exceptions) and it was a basis for high success rate. Part b) was less straightforward with few correctly stating the formula needed. Some explanations were good based on general knowledge, but some were completely off the mark. Part c) showed good general networking knowledge about TFTP and TCP, but it required detailed knowledge of the TCP protocol to be able to compare appropriately. Very successful question overall.