Examination Feedback for EEE336 – Digital Design
Spring Semester 2015-16

Feedback for EEE336 Session: 2015-2016

Feedback: Please write simple statements about how well students addressed the exam paper in general and each individual question in particular including common problems/mistakes and areas of concern in the boxes provided below. Increase row height if necessary.

General Comments:

On the whole, a good attempt at this year's exam. Surprisingly, there were very few attempts at question 4 on microcoding; the entire solution was straight from the notes with little deviation.

From the very poor attempts at all parts of the bookwork in this exam, I can only assume that students are concentrating on tutorial type analysis/calculation questions. The bookwork examines your knowledge of the topics presented and is left out at your peril, these are the relatively easy marks. You need a good overall knowledge of the module for future years.

Question 1:

a. A very poor attempt at what was supposed to be the easy bookwork part of the question.

b. Generally well attempted. The question asks you to use byte wide values and start by left shifting the divisor by 3 places. Many marks were lost for not simply following the instructions.

c. Good attempt at the 'synchronous' pipeline (I gave full marks for describing instruction pipelines). Mixed attempts at the non-blocking assignment. For the full marks your explanation had to be very clear on the reasons for a non-blocking assignment.

Question 2:

a. Well attempted, many marks picked up here.

b. Most students realised that you had to sign extend but some did not follow through by completing the example. The signed multiplicand could be taken as -2 or +6 which then had to be converted to -6. Either solution received full marks.

c. Most people picked up 2 marks for the reduced size register, but few mentioned the reduced size adder which was required for full marks.

Question 3:

a. Again, a very poor attempt at the easy bookwork.

b. Well attempted by most. For the inertial delay, many did not make it clear that if the pulse was not suppressed, the output changed after the inertial delay.

c. A very good attempt, most students picked up full marks here.

Question 4:

a. A reasonable attempt.

b,c,d. An extremely poor attempt at a straightforward question. I can only assume that student's made a decision not to learn this topic for some reason.