

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Diploma

May 2021

EXAMINERS' REPORT- Denise Oram

Examination title – Smart Systems

General comments

This exam covered the learning outcomes from the Smart Systems syllabus.

This is the first year that this exam has taken place.

The candidates were required to answer 4 out of 6 questions.

Performance overall:

The performance overall is reasonably good with some good results.

Some candidates did not always read the instructions/questions carefully and in one case the candidate answered five questions instead of four.

- Overall a good set of results with some excellent answers but not in all cases.
- The problems above indicate students do not read the questions adequately
- Not all candidates attempt all the sections in the questions.
- Candidates do not always write the whole answer in the correct sections
- Candidates tend to write about what they know rather than address the actual question.

The answers that were of a low standard, were mainly due to:

- not addressing the actual question.
- addressing parts of the question only.
- not including relevant examples to illustrate answers
- few relating to the model answers demonstrating a lack of understanding of the subject
- answers were not structured in relation to the structure of the question
- the depth/content of the answers did not reflect the actual grading of the question

Question number: A1

Total marks allocated: 25

Examiners' Guidance Notes

It was pleasing to see that a large majority of the candidates who answered this question achieved pass level marks. The question was split into 3 sections: 1a (9 marks), and 1b (6 marks) and 1c (10 marks); the answers were mainly good with only a small variation in the marks attained. Problems tended to arise when candidates did not attempt all parts of the question. Where candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the subject, they were credited with a relevant mark.

Question number: A2
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
A large proportion of candidates achieved pass level marks in this question. Again, answering only a part of a question led to problems

Question number: A3
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
The vast majority of candidates who attempted this question achieved pass level marks. Many demonstrated a very clear understanding of what was required and the answers were on the whole good.

Question number: B4
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
Less than half of the candidates attempted this question. The standard of answers was much lower than that for other questions. The main problem was that the candidates tended to misinterpret the question and just gave random answers of what they knew about the subject of Cyber Physical Systems, or just very basic examples.

Question number: B5
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
This was the most popular question. Again, the answers to this question varied but there were some excellent answers given.

Question number: B6
Total marks allocated: 25
Examiners' Guidance Notes
Few candidates answered this question. The overall performance showed a rather poor understanding of the subject matter