Examiner Report	
Qualification Name	Higher Education Qualification
Qualification Level	Certificate in IT
Date/ Series	April 2024
Module	Information Systems
General Comments	

Candidates should be careful to read the questions thoroughly and not 'note dump'.

Marks are were awarded for using examples based on the scenarios presented in the preamble.

Candidates need to take time to plan their answers.

Several answers for part A that were a lot shorter than Part B and therefore, were not going to score high marks.

Question no.	comments
A1	The average mark for this question was 31%. The average mark shows that candidates had issues with this question and how much maths was asked for. Many candidates seemed to ignore the scenario and tried to 'note dump' their way to a pass mark. Traditionally this has been a 12-mark question based on applying mean etc to a series of numbers and some candidates struggled to provide enough detail for a 30 mark question.

Question no.	comments
A2	Average Mark of 38%. Candidates seemed not to understand parts of the question. Part A – some candidates understood there are variations in the different approaches to software development, but the majority seemed to note dump on the traditional SDLC. Exam technique was also an issue with part A. Four 4 marks for one SDLC I was getting multiple pages (admittingly note dumps),

but this must have had an impact on Section B with so much time and effort on a 4 (times 3) mark answers.

Part B – fact finding – was well answered, so no issues.

Part C – few candidates understood that the question was asking for normalisation, ERDs or DFDs could be used to aid in the design of data structures.

Answers to part C were generally poor.

Question no.	comments
A3	Average mark of 23%. This was the second question in succession that was based on methodologies – an SDLC is a methodology. Candidates seemed to have issues with the question. Part A – was reasonably well answered, it's a classic question. Part B – caused confusion, SSADM is a hard method which was used by some candidates to answer Part A – so there was an overlap. Very few answers applied it to a website and simply note dumped on what the standard, traditional view of SSADM is. Part C – was very poorly answered. Most answers concerned OO programming and not OO design approaches. There is seems to be an issue with OO being taught by some providers or a lack of instruction and the candidates using knowledge from a programming module as the basis for their answers.
Question no.	comments
A4	Average mark of 21%. Candidates again seemed confused by the wording of the questions. Part C ended up being a dump of what they had answered for Part A and B. Candidates struggled and seemed to be unprepared for this question. A number of candidates confused accessibility with access.

Question no.	comments
B5	Average mark 34%. Candidates seemed to have the biggest issue with this question was the last two words "physically secure". A significant number of answers were on how to make data secure by the use of passwords, encryption etc, so and candidates seemed to ignore the data centre elements. As these were logical and not physical security these were awarded no marks. Most answered focused on the outside of the building and did very little to cover making the inside of the building secure. Little was discussed about making the infrastructure secure – redundant hardware, redundancies in the network infrastructure etc Suffered in places from note dumping on data security.
Question no.	comments
B6	Average mark 33%. Again, there seemed to be issues with candidates not reading the question or only being taught one style of prototyping. The question was about **throwaway** prototyping and most of the answers were on prototyping. Getting a lot of answers stating it is more expensive but with no statements or arguments to state why. If an organisation has decided to use this method, then that is factored into the cost, and more importantly the design rationale. Also comments on wasting of resources and time. Please see comment above, if an organisation adapts this approach, they are aware of what is happening and therefore there is no waste of resources or time (unless the candidate argues the case, which does not seem to be not happening.)
Question no.	comments
B7	Average mark 39%. Some reasonable answered for both Parts A and C. Part B (regression testing) is where the candidates seemed to have some issues. Again, exam technique came into play with the answers, some very short 2 or 3 comment per answers resulting in lower marks.(2 or 3 marks out of 4 max).

Question no.	comments
B8	Average mark 41%. Again, issues with exam technique, or note dumping. The scenario was ignored and straight note dumping on open and closed questions was the usual answer. Candidates need to read the questions and alter their answers accordingly. There is an issue with Closed Questions from a significant number of candidates. A closed question is not simply a short answer. I'm getting a lot of examples of Closed questions which are in the order of. "What is your first name" A closed question should have a restriction on the number of possible answers, not on the number of words. The request for examples was ignored in places and some of the examples were not mapped to the section being answered.

Question no.	comments
B9	Average mark 36%. There appears to be confusion between JRP and JAD, as the majority of answers simply identified them as the same event rather than at different stages of the RAD life cycle and involving different actors. Timeboxing was answered well due to some mapping / overlap with Agile and Scrum and these were marked as being the same style of project management approach.

Question no.	comments
B10	Average mark 32%. A database is not a database management system. A DBMS is the application that allows a database to perform. A number of answers seem to confuse the two and listed the advantages and disadvantages of using a database.

Question no.	comments
B11	Average mark 26%.

It seems that candidates believe that any device connected to the internet is an IOT one.

Lots of answers stating that phones and TVs are IOT, but without stating how they can be used as an IOT device.

Pure connection to the internet does not mean that a device is collecting or sharing data.

Very poor answering part B due to the issues with Part A.

Without understanding what IOT is, it is then it is difficult to give relevant examples.

My smart watch can be an IOT. Telling the time is not an IOT function nor is reading my heart rate. BUT the data fed to the app to indicate if I have reached my daily step limit COULD be treated as an IOT function.

IOT provides data from making decisions.

An IOT water / moisture senser could aid with the decision of when crops need to be watered.

An IOT motion sensor could aid with decisions that a building at night / closed is being robbed / invaded.

An IOT medical sensor could aid with a decision that a patient needs treatment.

The question asked for examples of data, and this section was primarily ignored.

Question no.	comments
B12	Average mark 38%. This is a standard IS level 4 question, but it has a very low average mark. Hierarchical structures seem to be better understood than matrix. But this does seem to be an area of weakness.