

Examiner Report	
Qualification Name	Higher Education Qualification
Qualification Level	Professional Graduate Diploma
Date/ Series	April 2024
Module	Software Engineering 2
General Comments	
<p>The candidates mostly showed effective knowledge of the subject with most passing comfortably. Since all questions could be answered in different ways, depending on the approach taken marks were awarded for each question in two parts: about two thirds for demonstration of technical understanding of the issues discussed and the rest for the quality of the argument including clarity, conciseness and relevance. Marks were often lost for repetition and the introduction of irrelevant material that led to loss of focus on the main points made.</p>	
Question no.	comments
A1	<p>This question was answered by just over half of the candidates. Part a should demonstrate a clear understanding of the purpose and function of models such as CMMI. Part b required two process metrics to be described and their role in measuring process improvement to be clearly assessed. Marks tended to be lost because of lack of clarity and focus.</p>
Question no.	comments
A2	<p>Most candidates answered this question. It related to a particular scenario – the online ordering services and marks were lost where general answers were given that did not clearly relate to this service. Part a related to the stages in requirement engineering and not the general software engineering model and marks were lost when discussing more general models. Candidates could take either approach to part b depending on their examples and opinions. Good marks were obtained by giving a clear and well-argued answer based on appropriate answers. For part c a clear argument needed to be made that the evolutionary approach could cope with varying system requirements. Specific example situations were very helpful in answering this section.</p>
Question no.	comments
A3	<p>Just over two thirds of the candidates answered this question. They mostly clearly understood the role of open-source software engineering and its role in building modern computer systems.</p>

	<p>Issues which should have been discussed but were often only skimmed over were the number of core components such as Linux, Apache, chrome, eclipse etc. which have become core to building modern systems. Part b is more contentious, and the answer will depend on the approach taken. Marks were awarded for a clear and well-argued and justified answer. What was surprising was that there was little discussion of open-source libraries and services such as Amazon Web Services etc. which can be great time savers and allow developers to include services that they would not have the knowledge or resources to develop themselves.</p>
Question no.	comments
B4	<p>This question was attempted by very few candidates. Most answered part a fully, but several become unstuck on part b. This was because of ambiguity in the definition of LOC. Most textbooks include comments, and headers, rather than just actual code as these have to be written and checked. This caused some confusion with rather long pieces of code being given. Part c was based on the general assumption that high cohesion and low coupling are good. There are plenty of arguments for this and any three would be appropriate.</p>
Question no.	comments
B5	<p>Most candidates attempted this question. They generally had a reasonable grasp of the role of legacy systems in organisational computer structures but almost all failed to demonstrate any understanding of the fundamental role that many play in the overall functioning of the organisation. They have been there for a long time and deal with core functions. Disturbance at this level can be catastrophic for a company. Part b is a common discussion point and can be argued either way. Candidates were expected to take a balanced view and provide an effective argument that compares them, including examples. For part b the options can be divided into a 2x2 diagram, and the proposed actions can be allocated to each block.</p>