

BCS Higher Education Qualification

Certificate in IT

October 2024

EXAMINERS' REPORT

Computer & Network Technology

Questions Report:

A1	<p>Very few candidates attempted this question. When answered, the technologies were often confused with a different data storage method or lacked technical depth.</p> <p>Answers to part a) sometimes confusing the technology, or not providing a sufficient explanation.</p> <p>Answers to part b) lacked technical depth or missed the purpose of the question.</p> <p>Part c) was often not answered. When answered, candidates focused on multiple uses or broad statements that did not sufficiently discuss how capacity could be increased.</p>
A2	<p>A popular and well-answered question that most candidates performed well in.</p> <p>Most candidates were able to recite the required information. However, there were frequent instances of repeated information when marks had already been awarded. Furthermore, candidates often were not able to display sufficient knowledge of how these technologies are used.</p> <p>Part a) was often answered well although there was much repetition in the answers.</p> <p>In part b), candidates were able to explain the concept but were unable to provide specific explanations in regard to its use.</p> <p>Part c) was often answered well. Candidates show a good understanding of the concept and were able to supply the correct key information.</p>

A3	
	<p>A popular candidate question; however, there was often a lack of technical depth and understanding of the question area. Candidates would refer to inappropriate models for the questions asked.</p> <p>In part a), candidates often identified the overall concept but lacked the ability to give it in concept or how it worked.</p> <p>In part b) candidates focussed on the advantages rather than the required components.</p> <p>Part c) indicates that candidates have a good understanding of the concept, but not the resolution method. Similarly, candidates mixed the concept up with one of the previous concepts in part a).</p> <p>Part d) showed candidates often referring to incorrect models for the question. Limited supporting explanations also limited the number of marks awarded.</p>
A4	
	<p>This question was rarely answered. Candidates showed a general understanding of the required diagram. However, insufficient understanding of characteristic tables and equations limited the number of marks provided.</p> <p>Part a) was answered well, although most candidates failed to identify the key elements of the diagram.</p> <p>Part b) was very rarely answered. When answered, the characteristic table which was often incomplete. A small number of candidates attempted the characteristic equation work with limited success.</p>
B5	
	<p>This question was popular with candidates. The majority received full marks for correct truth tables for part a).</p> <p>For part b), there were instances where candidates spent time providing truth tables, which was stated as not required by the question.</p>
B6	
	<p>This question was not attempted by many candidates.</p> <p>Part a) was well answered by the majority of candidates who correctly identified the purpose of STP.</p> <p>For part b) candidates identified the STP port states; however, marks were limited for some candidates due to not describing the behaviour of each state.</p>
B7	
	<p>For part a), the majority of candidates identified suitable components for benchmarking; however, they were unable to obtain full marks by not identifying a suitable metric for the measurement.</p> <p>Part b) was well answered with a large number of candidates obtaining full marks by identifying suitable device types and providing valid reasoning for use.</p>

B8	
	<p>The majority of candidates attempted this question.</p> <p>For part a), most candidates obtained full marks for binary conversions; however, hexadecimal representations were incorrect in some cases.</p> <p>For part b), not all candidates attempted the 2's complement calculations. Those that did obtained partial marks in most cases.</p>
B9	
	<p>The majority of candidates attempted this question.</p> <p>For part a), some candidates provided considerations relating to the purchase of a PC rather than a PC monitor which limited marks.</p> <p>For part b), a number of candidates obtained high marks for advantages and disadvantages of Inkjet printers, some candidates focused more on Dot Matrix printers rather than the subject of Inkjet printers which limited marks in these cases. Part c) was generally well answered with candidates providing a good selection of considerations in relation to the purchase of a keyboard.</p>
B10	
	<p>This question was not attempted by many candidates.</p> <p>For part a), most candidates identified the core elements of Moore's law; however, full marks were not awarded in many cases due to limited detail in the descriptions detail.</p> <p>For part b), candidates provided answers in different formats with some opting for diagrams. Cache and primary storage were well understood; however, confusion was shown in the role of secondary storage for some candidates which limited marks awarded.</p>
B11	
	<p>This question was not attempted by many candidates.</p> <p>For part a), most candidates did not obtain full marks due to not explaining the purpose of each technology.</p> <p>For part b), some candidates described transmission modes rather than transmission mediums.</p> <p>For part c), Local Area Networks were generally well understood; however, a number of candidates confused PANs with other types of networks.</p>
B12	
	<p>For part a), a number of candidates obtained full marks. There were instances where candidates spent time going into detail for each authentication method which was not required for this question.</p> <p>For part b), a number of candidates received limited marks due to duplication of examples or limited descriptions.</p> <p>Part c) was not answered in full with a number of candidates providing brief answers.</p>