Examination report – December 2012 series

2730-025 Software engineering

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.6 – The need for software engineering / software process. Solutions to this section were very good. Syllabus reference: 1.12 – Software specification / Requirements analysis. This section on the whole, was answered very well. Syllabus reference: 1.23 – Software specification / Requirements analysis. Solutions to this section were very good. Syllabus reference: 1.36 – Software validation / testing. On the whole this section was answered satisfactorily. Syllabus reference: 1.52 / 1.53 / 1.54 / 1.55 – Programming languages. This section was answered satisfactorily. Diagrams were often inaccurate. Syllabus reference: 1.65 / 1.67 / 1.68 – Programming languages. Candidates have shown some improvement this year with Unix.
Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 1.16 – Software specification / requirements analysis. Solutions to this question were very poor. Candidate's state diagrams were often inaccurate with some states left out. Syllabus reference: 1.22 – Software design and implementation / design methodology. Very few candidates had a grasp of Jackson procedural notation. The representation of the operations were not known by the majority of candidates and so could not be answered properly. Syllabus reference: 1.47 – Programming languages. Disappointing results for this question. Candidates had little idea of what a Scripted or a Logical language was. Syllabus reference: 1.56, 1.57 – Programming languages. Solutions to this question were poor. Very few candidates could describe three fundamental differences between HTML and XML.
Section 3 – Recommendations
Candidates need to improve their knowledge of the following areas: ● Drawing state diagrams ● Jackson Procedural notation ● Programming language types ● SGML.HTML,XML descriptions.