Examination report – June 2011 series

2730-014 Communication systems and digital networks 3

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.15, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9 – Cabling systems. All parts of this question were answered reasonably well. Answers could have been more detailed. Syllabus reference: 3.16, 3.5 – SDH, WDM. Answered fairly accurately by most candidates. Syllabus reference: 6.8 – IDC. Answered well by most candidates. Syllabus reference: 2.24 – CSMA / CD, MAC. Both parts of this question were answered reasonably well, although the explanations in both parts were sometimes weak and cost marks. Syllabus reference: 2.13, 2.16, 2.17 – Network topologies, Network devices, media types. All parts answered reasonably well by most candidates, although it was evident that certain candidates lacked knowledge in these areas. Syllabus reference: 4.12, 4.4 – VOIP. Answered reasonably well, sometimes incorrect answers were given. Syllabus reference: 4.5 – User friendly systems. This part was answered well. Syllabus reference: 5.15, 5.20 – Network management. All parts answered reasonably well by most candidates. Syllabus reference: 5.16 – MTBF, MTTR. Generally, this part was answered accurately.

Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 1.10, 6.3 – Cabling generic terminology, IDC. Section 1.10 revealed sparse incorrect answers; 6.3 in the main gave very poor answers indicating a lack of understanding. Syllabus reference: 3.10, 3.11 – PDH. In this part there was a clear indication of a lack of knowledge of PDH. Syllabus reference: 6.15 – IDCs. Many candidates simply repeated the wordings in the questions instead of descriptions. Syllabus reference: 4.11, 4.13 – VOIP. The answers here were mainly incorrect indicating a general lack of knowledge in the operation of VOIP. Syllabus reference: 3.15 – SDH. Weak incorrect answers indicated a general lack of understanding of a virtual container. Syllabus reference: 5.7 – Network management. Most candidates here simply repeated the wording in the questions.
Section 3 – Recommendations
• Read questions carefully and when diagrams are called for, produce them in a clear neat manner. • If descriptions or explanations are required, make sure they are detailed.