Examination report – December 2012 series

2730-018 Programming Principles

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.5, 1.6 – Basic knowledge. These sections were answered very well. Syllabus reference: 1.8 – Basic knowledge. Very few candidates could state why buffering is used in this section. Syllabus reference: 1.11 – Basic knowledge. Some very good solutions to this question. Syllabus reference: 1.16 – Basic programming concepts. On the whole answered fairly well, however candidates rarely gave an adequate explanation of the program operation. Syllabus reference: 1.19 – Basic programming concepts. Solutions to this question were generally very good. Syllabus reference: 1.29 – Basic programming concepts. This question was answered satisfactorily. Syllabus reference: 1.42 – Basic programming concepts. This question was answered satisfactorily, however very few candidates knew what database tuning was.
Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 1.23 – Basic programming concepts. Solutions to this question were very poor. Few candidates were able to explain what a function was and how it differed from a subroutine. Syllabus reference: 1.225, 1.26 – Basic programming concepts. In this section solutions were very often incorrect or vague. For example, 'Input' program specification considerations such as screen input area layout and input data validation were required. Syllabus reference: 1.46 - Basic programming concepts. This was the least popular section and on many occasions not attempted by the candidates. The HTML coding required was for fairly commonly used functionality within a web page.
Section 3 – Recommendations
Candidates need to improve their knowledge in the following areas: • Functions and Subroutines • Program specification requirements for input/output/performance/security • HTML coding.