**Examination report – December 2012 series**

2730-012 Communication systems and digital networks 2

| Section 1 – Areas of good performance |
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| Syllabus reference: 1.9, 1.17 – Switching and error correction methods.<br>All parts were answered well by the majority of candidates.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 2.5 – OSI.<br>Answered very well by most candidates.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 3.16 – Dotted decimal notation and IP addressing.<br>Answered reasonably well.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 3.24, 3.25, 3.12 – DHCP/DNS,TCP / IP.<br>Answered reasonably well by most candidates.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 3.9, 4.22 – IP version 4, IEEE 802.3 frame format.<br>Answered well by most candidates, but often candidates simply named sections with no descriptions.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 4.14, 4.16 – OSI, flow control, error detection schemes.<br>Answered reasonably well, but marks were lost because of vague explanations.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.6 – STA.<br>Most candidates gave reasonable answers to both parts.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.21, 5.24 – Routing, routing metrics.<br>Answered reasonably well by most candidates.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.27, 5.20, 5.29 – Network routing and filtering.<br>All parts answered reasonably well by most candidates. |
| Section 2 – Areas for development |
| Syllabus reference: 2.7 – OSI processes.<br>A distinct lack of understanding prevailed here as most answers were vague and incorrect.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 3.21 – Classful addressing and subnetting.<br>A lack of knowledge in this area, indicated by mostly incorrect answers.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 4.18, 4.19 – Frame relay protocol.<br>All parts were answered poorly showing the need for a great deal of development in this area.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.4 – LAN switch methods.<br>Most candidates failed to identify the switching methods and their descriptions.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.11 – Routing and routed protocols.<br>Vague and mostly incorrect answers were given here indicating a lack of knowledge in this area.<br><br>Syllabus reference: 5.28 – Network traffic filtering.<br>Most candidates simply repeated the wording in the question. |

| Section 3 – Recommendations |
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| • Read questions carefully re- descriptions, explanations etc.<br>• Produce neat legible diagrams, if asked for. |