Examination report – December 2012 series

2730-014 Communication systems and digital networks 3

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.11, 1.13 – Cabling systems and performance. All parts were answered well. Syllabus reference: 1.10, 1.15, 4.4, 4.5 – Cabling systems, emerging technology. Answered fairly accurately by most candidates, although some answers were vague and simply repeating the wording in the question. Syllabus reference: 2.17, 2.13, 2.20 – LAN, MAN technologies. Answered very well by most candidates. Syllabus reference: 2.12, 2.15– LANS and LAN devices. Answered reasonably well although unclear sketches sometimes cost marks. Syllabus reference: 4.3, 4.9 – VOIP, client server-peer to peer systems. Both parts answered reasonably well by most candidates, but again sketches were sometimes unclear. Syllabus reference: 5.7, 5.23 – NMS. Answered reasonably well. Syllabus reference: 5.16, 5.20 – NMS. Both of these parts were answered well. Syllabus reference: 6.15, 6.11 – IDCs. This part was answered well with accurate answers. Syllabus reference: 6.6,6.8, 3.8 – IDCs, multiplexing. Generally, these parts were answered reasonably well, although sometimes vague answers were given to multiplexing systems.
Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 2.9 – Broadcast media access, non-broadcast media access. Many candidates simply stated the wording in the question rather than explanations. Syllabus reference: 4.13 – VOIP. Many candidates described the concept of VOIP but not the description of a VOIP session PBX to PBX. Syllabus reference: 2.10 – PDH, SDH. A distinct weakness was evident in this area as most candidates gave incorrect answers to all parts. Syllabus reference: 5.14 – NMS. Whilst some candidates gave reasonable answers, others showed a clear lack of knowledge in this area.

Syllabus reference: 6.12 – IDCs. Many candidates failed to explain the meaning of a ‘virtual’ ISP.
Section 3 – Recommendations
• Read questions carefully and when diagrams are called for, produce the in a clear neat manner. • If descriptions or explanations are required, make sure they are detailed enough. • Observe examiners comments.