Examination report – June 2011 series

2730-022 Advanced telecommunication systems

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.6 – IP datagram. These parts were answered reasonably well indicating a good understanding in this area. Syllabus reference: 1.10, 2.11, 2.2 – Addressing schemes, standards. Answered well by most candidates, although part b0 revealed weaknesses sometimes. Syllabus reference: 3.8, 3.33 – Optical fibres. These parts were answered reasonably well, section 3.33 occasionally answered incorrectly. Syllabus reference: 3.12, 3.15 – Optical fibre systems. These parts were answered well. Syllabus reference: 4.2 – SONET / SDH. These parts were answered reasonably well, but unclear sketches sometimes cost marks. Syllabus reference: 5.11, 5.12 – Routing. This part was answered reasonably well by most candidates. Syllabus reference: 5.27 – Switching methods. Both parts in this section answered reasonably well, although descriptions could have been more detailed. Syllabus reference: 7.5, 7.19 – IDC's. These parts were answered well. Syllabus reference: 8.11, 8.12 – Cryptosystems. These parts were answered reasonably well.
Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 3.29 – APD / PINS. Answers were vague and mainly incorrect. Syllabus reference: 4.7 – ATM. Very poor explanations given, showing a lack of basic knowledge in this area. Syllabus reference: 5.24 – Network switches. A lack of knowledge and understanding prevailed here with most candidates failing to identify how separate collision domains were created. Syllabus reference: 5.5 – Routing update algorithms. Very weak explanations were given here for both parts. Syllabus reference: 6.5, 6.6 – Ins. A clear lack of understanding existed here as most answers were vague and incorrect.

Syllabus reference: 7.18 – IDCs. Although many candidates attempted this part, very few gave satisfactory explanations. Syllabus reference: 8.3 – NMS. Answers were mainly incorrect.
Section 3 - Recommendations
• Read questions carefully re- descriptions, explanations etc. • Produce neat legible diagrams if asked for.