Examination report – December 2010 series

Paper no 2730 – 014 Communication Systems and Digital Networks 3

Section 1 – Areas of good performance (question no/syllabus topic or reference)
Syllabus sections: 1.13, 1.5, Cabling systems - All parts of this question were answered reasonably well. Syllabus sections: 1.11, 1.10, Optical fibres/generic cabling systems - Answered fairly accurately by most candidates. Syllabus sections: 2.17, 2.12, 2.16, Cables - All of these parts answered reasonably well, occasionally marks were lost in part (c). Syllabus sections: 4.13, 4.14, VOIP - These parts were answered accurately by most candidates, occasional weaknesses occurred in part (b). Syllabus sections: 2.13, 2.22, 2.10, LANs, MANs and devices - Answered reasonably well by most candidates. Syllabus sections: 3.12, 3.5, Signal types, SONET, WDM - Answered reasonably well by most candidates. Syllabus section: 5.19, NMS software - Answered well. Syllabus sections: 5.16, 5.20, 5.23, 5.24, NMS - All parts of this question answered reasonably well. Syllabus sections: 6.8, 6.15, IDCs - Both parts of this question answered quite well. Syllabus sections: 6.13, 6.11, IDCs/Firewalls - Generally, these parts were answered accurately.
Section 2 – Areas for development (question no/syllabus topic or reference)
Syllabus section: 4.6, GUI versus command line based systems - Many candidates appeared to read the question wrongly, as they gave incorrect answers in terms of system complexity and ease of use. Syllabus section: 3.7, Signalling types and methods - Very vague and mostly incorrect answers were given to all sections of this part. Syllabus section: 5.7, NMS - Most candidates simply repeated the wording in the question, instead of giving descriptions. Syllabus section: 6.9, IDCs - Most candidates did not appear to know what was meant by ‘facilities’, as answers were mostly incorrect. Syllabus section: 1.18, Cabling performance testing - A clear lack of understanding existed with reference to link performance testing resulting in very poor answers.

Section 3 - Recommendations
To review areas for development.
Section 4 - Tips
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 enough.