Examination report – December 2012 series

2730-022 Advanced telecommunication systems

Section 1 – Areas of good performance
Syllabus reference: 1.19, 2.2, 2.5 – DHCP, standards. All parts were answered reasonably well indicating a reasonable understanding in these areas. Syllabus reference: 3.5, 3.8 – Optical fibre systems. Answered well by most candidates, although explanations were sometimes vague. Syllabus reference: 3.25, 3.4, 3.33 – Optical fibres. These parts were answered reasonably well showing a good understanding of these aspects of optical fibres. Syllabus reference: 4.13 – STM-1. Reasonable answers were given here; sometimes marks were lost as statements were given rather than descriptions. Syllabus reference: 5.9, 5.3 – Routing and convergence. These parts were answered reasonably well. Syllabus reference: 5.27 – Switching methods. Reasonable answers were given to both sections of this part showing a good understanding in these areas. Syllabus reference: 7.10, 7.5 – IDCs. Both parts answered reasonably well, although in some cases a lack of detail cost marks. Syllabus reference: 6.5, 6.10, 6.3 – INs. All parts answered reasonably well, answers to SSP & SCP could have been more detailed. Syllabus reference: 7.19, 7.5, 7.10 – IDCs. Answered well in all parts, however marks were lost because of lack of detail in the explanations. Syllabus reference: 8.12, 8.13, 8.17 – Cryptosystems Answered well but again lack of detail in explanations cost marks.

Section 2 – Areas for development
Syllabus reference: 1.1, 1.3 – CIDR & subnets. Answers were vague and incorrect showing a lack of understanding in both of these areas. Syllabus reference: 3.16 – Optical fibres. Very few candidates gave correct answers in identifying the difference between material and modal distortion. Syllabus reference: 5.4 – Routing algorithms. Very weak explanations cost candidates marks here, quite often giving incorrect explanations for each type. Syllabus reference: 5.35 – VLANs (types). Very few candidates gave correct answers, indicating a lack of knowledge regarding MAC address based and port based types.
Section 3 – Recommendations
• Read questions carefully re- descriptions, explanations etc. • Include adequate detail. • Produce neat legible diagrams, if asked for.