UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

THE MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

May 2010

EXAMINERS’ REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
Part 1: Statistical Information

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<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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Part 2: Comments Regarding Candidate’s Performance

From the initial examination it is evident that the students are clearly oriented towards answering problems that do not involve application skills like programming etc. Many of the questions were answered in a recall like style, where students give back what they learn by heart, rather than apply it correctly.

Paper I

Question A1 (Inf. Policy strategy, security etc.)

This question was quite well answered by a handful of students. Many students did not properly understand the terms security mechanism. Some students did not properly answer the question and concentrated on some parts going into excessive detail whilst not answering other parts.

Question A2 (Information Systems Life Cycles)

This question was rather well answered and indicated that students had a good idea of what an Inf. Systems life cycle is and its main issues.

Question A3 (ICT legislation)

The students who attempted this question with the exception of a few students seemed to clearly know about ICT legislation. The concept of computer crime was very easy for them to identify and relate to.

Question A4 (Number base systems)

This question was well answered by those who attempted it. The most difficult part seemed to be the different uses of fixed-point vs floating-point representations.

Section B

Question B1 (Compulsory)

This question seems to be average to well answered. The majority of students perhaps did not understand what change is and what functional areas are found in an organization. Rather than not knowing the topic it is possible that they do not understand the questions formulated using certain terminology.

Question B2 (Communication Model)

Most students had difficulties to draw a communication model. The other questions were more popular.

Question B3 (Human Resource Dept. Function)

This question seemed to be the most popular and easiest to answer.
Question B4 (Communication, -Email principles)

This question seemed to be easy to answer. Most students were well aware of email use and issues.

Paper II

Question A1 (Compulsory)

This question was rather difficult for the majority of students. Students had problems to understand what the differences between the internet and WWW are. Internet technologies, protocols and even web utility identification were not properly understood by most students. The other part on Internet Security again was quite difficult for some students.

Question A2 (Operating Systems)

Most students understood this topic quite well however some students could not understand some of the terminology used and even the topics.

Question A3 (DBMS)

This was rather easy for most students

Question A4 (Software)

The first parts of the question were easy for most students, however students had difficulties with things like OLE, software evaluation etc.

Section B

Question B1 (Compulsory)

Parts of this question were not properly answered. Some students could not identify five flowchart symbols and explain their use. Some students did not know anything about testing and put it wrongly in the design stage! Again most students did not know about any testing strategies.

Question B2 (Programming Paradigms)

This question was rather disappointing. Students found it difficult to identify three programming paradigms. Students did not know what an IDE is. Students did not know what utilities related to an IDE are.

Question B3 (Testing)

This question was easier than the rest. Yet still, students were not conversant with the technical details and issues, what testing strategies are etc. etc.

Question B4 (Problem Solving)

This question proved to be difficult to answer by most students. Some students did not even know what an algorithm is. Even file systems are still not well understood.

Chairperson

Board of Examiners

July 2010