

CIS109 (West) Examiner's Report 2009

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1 Introduction

This exam, was in general very well done, with many students scoring over seventy per-centant and relatively few failures.

The format of the exam changed from previous years. Before students we asked to choose to attempt four questions out of a total of six. This time the examiners decided to set four compulsory questions. The reason for this was twofold:

- (a) The examiner felt it was important that students could not avoid large parts of the syllabus of such a fundamental module.
- (b) Many students were attempting five or six questions anyway.

The format of each question was, however, identical to that of previous years, consisting of three parts

- (a) Part a: An easy part (worth nine marks)
- (b) Part b: A moderately difficult part (worth worth marks)
- (c) Part c: A hard part (worth 8 marks)

The first two parts of each of questions is usually subdivided into further three or more section each requiring a very short answer. The final part tends however, to be a large single question, quite often involving the student having to produce a program or at least part of a program.

The first two parts of each question are 'bookwork' whereas the last part involved the students having to solve a program problem. These problems were all very similar to exercises from the subject guides.

2 General observations

On the whole, the exam marks were fairly high. All the questions got very high marks from at least one students. The questions appeared to be of equal difficulty, although this is not so important in a paper where all questions are compulsory.

Students tended to give too 'wordy' answers to Part a and Part b, often giving explanations for their answers. Such explanations were not required and hence ignored by the markers.

I felt that part c of each question could be made more challenging. In this exam a too high proportion were making very good attempts at this, although it was really intended to allow the first class student to shine,

QUESTION 1

- (a) (i) What is the output of the following program?

```
class Hello5
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        int s;           //Declaration of variable s
        s = 15*2;        //assignment statement
        System.out.println("s");
    }
}
```

- (ii) What is the output of the following program?

```
class p2
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        String x = "hello ";
        x=x+x;
        System.out.println(x);
    }
}
```

- (iii) What is the output of the following program?

```
class p6
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
```