

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF PAKISTAN

EXAMINERS' COMMENTS

SUBJECT	SESSION
Information Technology	Intermediate - Autumn 2007

Most of the questions in the paper were easy but on the whole, the performance of the candidates was just average. Even in basic fact based i.e. definition oriented questions, many of them were unable to answer correctly. It was observed that candidates lack clear understanding of the subject. Most of them provide answers on the basis of their general understanding instead of any specific information.

Question-wise comments are given hereunder:

- Q.1 Candidates focused more on the marketing and general success factors for any business initiative, instead of being specific to an aspiring e-commerce company. Due to this, most of them did not mention the factors such as, attractive website, system reliability and security, and secure way of effecting transactions etc.
- Q.2 This question was about the system functionalities which a recruitment program should possess. In general the question was not well attempted. Many students could not understand the requirement and listed general system characteristics instead of those specific to the recruitment program. Such a system should have functionalities such as interface to Internet to advertise for the vacant positions, accept applications/resumes online, online tracking, short-listing criteria, generation of interview call letters, creation of interview schedules, recording of interview results, creation of offer letters etc.
- Q.3 This question had two parts. First part relating to wireless LAN and its advantages/disadvantages was reasonably well attempted as students correctly described various advantages of WLANs such as mobility, productivity, expandability etc. Disadvantages included security concerns, limited range, reliability, cost etc. and were also listed correctly. The 2nd part relating to distributed processing was also well attempted. Distributed processing is a method in which multiple processors placed at different geographical locations are connected through a network. Most of the students gave appropriate explanation in line with the above definition.
- Q.4 The part was attempted well by most students as they were able to give appropriate examples of one to one (such as students name and roll number) one to many (such as doctor and his patients) and many to many relationship (such as students and courses available). However, some students gave too general examples i.e. while describing one to one relationship they mentioned the relation between A and B without explaining what they meant by A and B. The 2nd part was an extremely easy question and almost all students got full marks by specifying the various back-up storage devices.

Q.5 The question about examples of preventative controls, detective controls and corrective controls was mostly well attempted, although some students mixed up examples of preventive and detective controls.

Q.6 The first part of the question about Internet terminologies was surprisingly not as well attempted as it could have been. Most of the students correctly defined web page and home page. However it was observed that although many students were familiar with the terms web page and home page because of their experience of using Internet but they were unable to clearly distinguish between the two. Moreover a large number of candidates could not correctly define URL. Students should know that uniform resource locator (URL) is the unique address of a website. It generally consists of four parts, i.e. protocol name, site location, name of organization that maintains the site and a suffix which identifies the kind of organization it is.

Second part of the question about vulnerabilities of instant messengers was also not well attempted. These vulnerabilities include denial of service, junk mails, unauthorized access, bypass of corporate firewall, identify theft, loss of privacy etc. Many students referred to vulnerabilities from the point of view of personal use instead of use in corporate environment as was required by the question. Some students started describing risks other than security risks, an interesting example of which was “Spread of Rumours”:

Q.7 This was the worst attempted question and very few of the candidates were able to prepare a decision table based on the given conditions and rules. A large number of candidates just prepared a two-dimensional matrix instead of a decision tree. Many students listed the various conditions but could not list the two possible actions i.e. “verify” and “reject”. All in all, it was evident that a large majority of the students had given very little attention to this part of the syllabus.

(THE END)