

### Examiners Comments:

The exam scripts that I reviewed were reasonable. While no student received a High-Distinction, there were some distinctions and many papers clustered around the Credit range. This indicates that most students have achieved a sound general understanding of the course materials. There were, however, a number of students who failed the exam, nearly all of these students provided limited responses to the questions, responses that showed only a schematic understanding of some or all of the questions to which they responded and little preparation for the exam. Others showed some understanding of one or two questions but were unable to provide convincing or thorough responses to the remainder.

Otherwise there was a pleasing degree of consistency in the responses provided most scripts offered well developed responses, although a handful of papers were let down by a weak response to at least one question. It is important for students to understand that success in this exam is closely tied to consistency. Achieving the highest possible grades is difficult under exam condition, but it is impossible without consistency in one's responses. Exam situations mean that it is often difficult to do more than provide a basic descriptive account of a problem, with little time for pausing to reflect on the issues. Yet, while this is hard under exam situations the better papers included some reflective elements in their responses.

Legibility was, as always, an issue in some papers, while most of the papers were legible there were a number that were very difficult to read. Here my advice is that it is better to say less and produce a paper that is completely legible than to strive to say everything that could possibly be said but leave substantial portions of it illegible. Students ought to be pragmatic here, you can only be marked on the basis of what is legible. It is thus important to remain calm under the pressure of the moment.

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