

Chief Examiner's Report

Advanced Investment Schemes Operation- December 2007

It was disappointing to see that so few students seemed to have properly prepared for the exam and did not seem to understand what was required in their answers. (Some were very limited in the answers given for the ten mark questions)

In almost all questions candidates were unable to demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter.

Candidates should be provided with a copy of the paper and the potential answers in order that they can see the degree of knowledge that they must demonstrate.

Section A (ten questions three marks each) Average 6.125

Overall this section was very poorly answered with some students achieving only 1 or 2 marks for the entire section, the top mark being 12 out of 30. This section is short answer and is intended to check the breadth of knowledge of the students in the curriculum; performance in this section would seem to indicate that though students may know the area in which they work, knowledge of other areas is lacking. More effort must be made by students to study the entire workbook.

Question 1- Average Mark 0.2

Only 2 students managed to score at all on this question.

Question 2- Average Mark 0.5%

Only 1 student scored and actually managed 3 out of 3.

Question 3- Average Mark 0.56%

Most students attempted to answer this question but they did not seem to have any depth to their knowledge. Only one managed 50%.

Question 4- Average Mark 0.20%

Only six students attempted this question. The maximum mark was 0.5 suggesting no knowledge of the subject.

Question 5- Average Mark 0.16%

Again only 6 students attempted it and the highest mark was again 0.5.

Question 6- Average Mark 0.8%

One student managed to achieve 50% but the others lacked any real depth of knowledge to warrant better marks.

Question 7- Average Mark 0.87%

Again this was poorly answered.

Question 8 Average Mark 0.78%

This was slightly better answered in that 2 students did fairly well (2 & 2.5 marks respectively).

Question 9 Average Mark 0.75%

Students had a vague knowledge but lacked sufficient detail to gain decent marks (although 2 did score well).

Question 10 Average Mark 1.06%

A reasonable attempt in that 5 scored 50% or better.

Section B (three questions 10 marks each)

Again a very limited knowledge was displayed in this section with very poor marks being achieved with students obviously struggling to achieve marks in almost all areas. This would again suggest a lack of preparation and an over reliance on work based knowledge only.

Question 11 Average Mark 2.4%

Most students had some knowledge but no one scored more than 3 out of 10.

Question 12 Average Mark 2.7%

One student managed a 5 but the others were again merely demonstrating a very basic grasp.

Question 13 Average Mark 3%

By far the best of the 3 in that 2 achieved 50% and another managed 4 but the others were again struggling.

Section C (answer 1 question for 20 marks)

Slightly better answers were achieved here although the majority of students relied on Question 14 which may suggest that was their background.

Question 14 Average Mark 12%

Six students tried this question and most scored moderately well.

Question 15 Average Mark 8.5%

Two students attempted this question and neither performed very well (both under 10)

Section D (Answer 1 question for 20 marks)

A better section overall. All students attempted the same question which suggests that they felt comfortable with the topic area and again I would suggest that this may reflect the background knowledge of the students rather than their studies

Question 16

No student attempted this question .

Question 17 Average Mark 9.685%

All attempted this one but only two students seemed to have a fair knowledge of the topic by scoring 11/12 out of 20.

General Guidance to students

- It is essential to read and study the workbook for a good period of time before attempting the exam. Do NOT rely on your personal experiences alone.
- Do not attempt the exam if you have not devoted time to studying the workbook.
- Questions must be read carefully and then answered in sufficient depth relative to the marks available. A full page for 3 marks takes up valuable time when only 3 marks are available.
- Do not add information which is not **relevant** to the question being asked.
- Writing lists is not what is required for the majority of the questions, rather explain and discuss the topic area fully giving a definition and the pros and cons for the area (as appropriate).
- Study the past papers available and see what was required as an answer.
- This is an advanced paper covering all aspects of administration not just the area in which you are employed.