The opening parts of the questions – which were provided as the easiest lead into the rather more challenging applied subsection – were challenging to mark in so many cases. What should have been clear definitions – of basic concepts that were repeated over the course of the 5-week programme – were often so vague that it was all but impossible to discern any show of understanding by the respective student(s).

This year there seemed to be even more students who ignored the exam instructions and submitted entire scripts in pencil.

Despite it being made a case in point in class – to encourage learning from mistakes made in previous years – it was still a frequent trend for students to write chatty pieces which bore no connection to the case study under scrutiny. Instructions to provide the answer in a clearly-labelled diagram – a task befitting the subject and far easier than text-based solutions for the subject – were frequently ignored.

Some students didn’t seem to appreciate the difference between a data set and a list of use-cases. Some thought it sufficient to preface each item in the data set with "Input ..."