A total of 139 exam papers were marked. The overall average for the section was 61 ± 22%.

Question 3 was attempted by 14 candidates. Marks ranged from 6/20 to 17/20; 4 failed to achieve a pass mark. The question attempted to test students’ understanding of the difficulties associated with different types of speech recognition problems and what tools might be used to address these. Students who gained few marks generally did not attempt much of the question.

Question 4 was answered by the majority of candidates. The mark distribution is shown below. The question tested students’ understanding of Markov chain models by asking them to unroll a simple model and use this information to estimate probabilities of observing certain sequences of phonemes. The majority of candidates managed this very well, although there were a significant number who misunderstood how to unroll a model to a specific length sequence. There was evidence that some candidates had not prepared for this exam. The question also included some simple calculations, some candidates made careless mistakes. One candidate seems very concerned to fit their answer into as little of the answer book as possible!