Section A

Q1 - generally well attempted. Most students seemed to understand the operation of caches, and some gave good answers to the problem part (d, e, f and g).

Q2 - less well done in general - in particular, students seemed unclear on the design goals of Virtualization and a significant number completely failed to understand "rapid provisioning". Nevertheless, a generally satisfactory result.

Section B

Q3. In general appropriate understanding of the concept of pipelining. However it looks like there are a some rather common problems understanding how stalls and forwarding works. Good marks in general, but I think this question may have been too easy.

Q4. Multicores and cache coherence seem to be understood pretty well, probably because they are common place today. I can detect no problems with superscalar either. However multithreading seems to be misunderstood by a large proportion of students (specially simultaneous MT). Students think that MT requires high ILP, while what it does is increasing ILP by getting instructions from different execution flows. Only a few seemed aware that MT implies sharing local cache. It was rather common not being able to differentiate between MT at SO level and at an architectural level. In general, slightly lower marks, but still more than acceptable performance, IMHO.