Performance in this exam was solid. Students across the class showed a good understanding of the key concepts taught by the course unit, although quite a few people were tripped up by the questions designed to test deeper understanding.

As seems to happen every year, questions on design patterns, testing and estimation were the ones that caused most students to lose marks. The common pattern here was that students were okay answering questions about simple concepts that appeared in the slides, but struggled with the more complex concepts that were presented mainly in the workshop presentations, discussions and activities. Many students chose not to attend the later workshops - which, ironically, were the ones where the more complex concepts, which can’t be easily summarised on a slide, were presented.

As also seems to happen every year, lost marks were more common on questions which included the words such as “not” and “least” (e.g., “which of the following is not/least appropriate”) and which included “All of the above” as an answer choice. 6 of these questions had significant numbers of students selecting the wrong answer. It is impossible to tell from the student answers whether these mistakes were due to misunderstanding of the concepts being tested, or whether students simply misread the question, in the rush to answer in the time limit.