Introductory Databases

Exercise 1

Generic Feedback on Exercise

On the whole everyone answered these questions well. The average mark (after applying penalties for lateness) was 70%.

Many of you lost marks for silly mistakes – missing parts of the question or just not thinking the solution through properly.

Lateness penalties were applied as specified on the mark sheet – this cost some of you a lot of marks. I’ve checked with my recommendations from welfare for those of you to be given extra time. If I missed your case then speak to me about it.

There are a small number of you where I have added a comment saying you should speak to me – if that’s the case then this will only be to your advantage!

If you submitted multiple times then we marked the latest version which minimised any lateness penalties. In one or two cases I spotted where a later submission was much better but there may be one or two that were missed.

In the exam. You will have similar questions. Obviously, there I will be much more tolerant of minor slips but in this test you could test your solutions so expected them to be syntactically correct.

Some of you wrote things that were almost unintelligible because you did not use any formatting to show the structure. This is a really bad idea and in some cases you lost a few marks for this.

Overall, though, most of you showed good understanding, so well done.

- Q1 This was meant to be a gentle warm up. All you need to do is join the 3 tables. Remember the ORDER BY clause! Unfortunately, some of you made this far too complex.
- Q2 Take care that the condition is right! Mostly well done. Read the question and answer ALL of it.
- Q3 Again, this was mostly well done. Again, read the question and answer it fully!
- Q4 This was again mostly good. You just need a nested query although there are other ways to answer it.
- Q5. Same as Q5
- Q6. This was meant to test you and many of you did not manage to answer this question. I suggest that you sit down and try to work through it when you get a chance.

So, mostly good. For the exam. Make sure you are properly prepared and have worked through some examples. Read the question, think about what it is asking, think about how to answer it and make sure you answer the whole question. Also, make sure that I can easily read and understand your solution!