2001 Paper 6 Question 10

Foundations of Functional Programming

The following are some concepts that have flourished in the context of functional programming but which have (so far) been less heavily used in main-stream languages even when they have been available:

- (a) polymorphic types
- (b) type reconstruction
- (c) higher-order functions
- (d) lazy evaluation
- (e) continuations

For each case give a brief explanation of the facility referred to, suggest a circumstance in which it might be useful and comment on how immediately relevant to non-functional languages it seems.

[4 marks per part]