

BIRKBECK COLLEGE
(University of London)

BSc Examination for Internal Students
School of Computer Science & Information Systems

Social and Organisation Issues in Computing

COIY030H6 - Course Unit Value: ½

June 3rd 2014 / 14:30

Duration: 2 hours

There are five (5) questions in this exam paper.
Students should answer three (3) questions.

Question 1

- a) List three reasons why information systems are important in modern society.
[6 marks]
- b) Describe the two most important causes of information systems failure in your opinion, and give two examples of high profile IT project failures, indicating what went wrong.
[20 Marks]

- c) Who was Charles Babbage, and what was the Difference Engine?
[7 Marks]

[Total 33 Marks]

Question 2

- a) What is the purpose of the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act 2000 and who does it apply to?
[6 marks]

- b) What are the grounds for complaint under the Fol Act?
[6 marks]

- c) Where can one typically find information about an organisation's commitment to the Fol Act? What are Birkbeck's obligations under the Fol Act?
[8 marks]

- d) Doc Sportello is a private individual who wants to know more about the Gravity Rainbow project, a high value UK trade deal to sell rockets to the Ruritanians. This has been widely reported in the press, although the sale is still being debated in Parliament. Can the Fol Act help Doc?
[13 marks]

[Total 33 Marks]

Question 3

You work for a software company that is developing bespoke software for Teledyne Corporation, a robotics firm. The contract for this work is in two phases: the first, a time and materials (T&M) contract to agree project scope and a work plan; and the second phase a fixed price contract for the actual development work.

- a) Explain the difference between a T&M and Fixed Price contract.

[10 marks]

- b) Why it is of benefit both to you AND to Teledyne to contract in this way?

[8 marks]

- c) During the project you develop new unique code for Teledyne. Describe three ways in which such Intellectual Property is protected and identify which is most appropriate in this case.

[15 marks]

[Total 33 Marks]

Question 4

- a) Alice wants to build a client mailing list for her new online book store and wonders if Data Protection laws are relevant to her business. Can you provide four Data Protection principles that apply to her case?

[15 marks]

- b) Alice wants to know if there are other regulations that apply to her new online business, particularly around contracting. What is your advice?

[18 marks]

[Total 33 Marks]

Question 5

- a) Describe clearly the pros and cons for regulation of the software engineering profession.

[10 marks]

- b) State exactly what reserving 'title' and 'function' of a profession means, providing an example of a profession for which both title and function are reserved.

[10 marks]

- c) In 2010, Google was sued by Viacom for infringement of copyright by its subsidiary YouTube. Describe the legal argument at the base of the litigation and the outcome.

[13 marks]

[Total 33 Marks]