

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: $\frac{1}{2}$

Exam Paper 1

May 27 2016 / 14:30

Duration: 2 hours

There are five (5) questions in this exam paper.

Students should answer three (3) questions.

If you answer more than three (3) questions, only the best three (3) will count.

Question 1

- a) Why are Information Systems important to society, to the economy and to individuals?
[5 Marks]
 - b) Write a short essay (2-3 pages) describing two high profile case studies of information systems projects that have failed. What were the main reasons for the failures?
[28 Marks]
- [33 Marks]**

Question 2

- a) What is the purpose of Data Protection legislation in the UK? List four of the principles that underpin Data Protection laws.
[8 marks]
 - b) What are the main rights of data subjects (citizens) under the Data Protection Act?
[8 marks]
 - c) What is the purpose of Freedom of Information (Fol) legislation in the UK?
[5 marks]
 - d) Describe provisions included in a Publication Scheme, and list the circumstances under which you can make a complaint about a FOI request.
[12 marks]
- [33 Marks]**

Question 3

- a) Define what is meant by Intellectual Property (IP). What agency in the UK addresses intellectual property issues?
[5 marks]
 - b) Copyright and Patents are used to protect Intellectual Property: describe three examples of IP that each covers, and list the differences between copyright and patent.
[20 marks]
 - c) What form of Intellectual Property Right is generally used to protect ownership of computer programs? Under what circumstances can software patents be issued in the USA?
[8 marks]
- [33 marks]**

Question 4

- a) In what ways do outsourcing contracts differ from software development contracts?
[10 marks]
 - b) A typical software development contract will include a Statement of Work or Schedule of Work. Describe what this is and the terms that are typically be included in such a statement of work.
[10 marks]
 - c) How is ownership of Intellectual Property usually assigned in a software development contract? What are the exceptions? Does the developer retain ownership of Intellectual Property?
[13 marks]
- [33 marks]**

Question 5

- a) Describe three of the functions of a profession. Why do some people regard the professions as self-serving?
[13 marks]
 - b) Some professions are regulated in the UK. Describe three forms of reservation in regulated professions, providing examples.
[13 marks]
 - c) Describe clearly the pros and cons for regulation of the software engineering profession.
[7 marks]
- [33 marks]**