

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
BSc EXAMINATION
COMPUTING and INFORMATION SYSTEMS
for External Students : 2008

291 0320 ZA

CIS320 Project
Western Zone

Duration: 2 hours 15 minutes

Date and Time: Friday 16 May 2008 : 10.00 – 12.15 pm

*Attempt all **FOUR** questions. All questions carry equal marks and full marks can be obtained for complete answers to **FOUR** questions.*

Questions involving a description or explanation should, wherever possible, be accompanied by an appropriate example.

Credit will be given for clarity of explanation, sound grammar and legibility.

No electronic calculators may be used.

**NO STUDENT PROJECT REPORT COPY OR COPY OF THE
PROJECT GUIDE IS ALLOWED IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM**

**THIS EXAMINATION PAPER MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE EXAMINATION ROOM**

Advice on answering questions.

The examination is about **your** project report and the processes by which **you** carried out **your** project.

Mostly it is appropriate that you emphasise the positive aspects of your work, within the constraints of answering questions accurately.

However, no project report is perfect and the examiners will give credit if your answers show understanding of any limitations, in the project report, and their consequences.

In answer to any question reference to the subject guide or any other source used should be made as appropriate, even where not explicitly requested in a particular question.

1. (a) Choose three actual journal or other references that you gave in your project report reference list, and that were influential on your project work question or objectives. State as accurately as you can the author(s), title and source (e.g. journal or publisher, and date). [Note that complete accuracy is not essential but do ensure sufficient information to enable the examiners to identify the references in the reference list of your report]
[3]
 - (b) For each of the references you listed in (a), detail the results or ideas from them that you used, and explain as much as you can about how the authors arrived at the results you quote. Explain why these particular references were especially important to you in your project work, and how you used them.
[15]
 - (c) Discuss in general terms some of the literature you read that was of general relevance to your project area but turned out to be of little specific value. Relate the points you make to any lack of overlap in that literature with your own specific project question or goals.
[7]
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2. (a) State whether or not you used a supervisor on your project. If you did, state whether the supervisor was allocated (e.g. by an institution you attended), or whether you were able to select the supervisor by mutual agreement. If you did not utilise a supervisor, give a short statement of the reason.
[1]
 - (b) What requirements of the project unit, for your approach to working and your actions, distinguish it from other units on the degree? Discuss the benefits of these requirements in terms of skills contribution to an IT based career or in further degree study.
[10]
 - (c) What difficulties, in execution, do some of the requirements, that you specified in (b), pose for students?
[3]
 - (d) Why may these difficulties be greater for self-study students than for students with an appropriate supervisor? What approaches and processes can a self-study student use to alleviate these difficulties? Relate your answer to any problems or benefits you experienced with having, or not having, a supervisor.
[11]

3. (a) Briefly outline the methods, which the Project Guide describes, for helping time management and work progress on a project. Also outline any techniques that you used that were learned from other sources. [5]
- (b) Describe how you used these methods in managing your own project. Explain which worked well for you and which were of less value, giving reasons. [8]
- (c) Student projects generally require some "fact finding and/or knowledge discovery". Examples of methods for this are experiment, interviews, observations and questionnaire surveys. Describe the "fact finding and/or knowledge discovery" methods, and their use, which you used in your project and explain how well each method worked for you or any problems encountered. [12]
4. The Subject Guide lists the following points as highly significant in the assessment of your project report.
- Structure
 - Academic standards
 - Depth of knowledge
 - Originality of ideas
 - Report quality
- (a) In your own words, briefly state the scope, or meaning, that you understand each of these points to have. [5]
- (b) Critically evaluate your own project report in terms of conformance to the five given points. Emphasise where you have been most successful, but also show awareness of where your report addressed them less well. [20]

END OF EXAMINATION