THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

MEng,BSc, 2004–2005

COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
Part A/B

COMPUTER SCIENCE WRITING
Open Examination

Issued at:
3 November 2004
(Autumn/4/Wed)

Submission due:
26 January 2005
(Spring/3/Wed)

Your attention is drawn to the Guidelines on Mutual Assistance and Collaboration
in the Student's Handbook.

All queries on this assessment should be addressed to
Dr F. A. C. Polack (fiona@cs.york.ac.uk) by email.
No questions will be answered after Monday 10 January 2005.
Answers will appear only on the website,
`http://www-course.cs.york.ac.uk/csw/assessment/QandAs.html` .

Your examination number must be written on the front of your submission.
You must not identify yourself in any other way.

1 The Assessment

Chose a topic from the **topics** listed on the accompanying website

`http://www-course.cs.york.ac.uk/csw/assessment/topics.pdf`

These are general areas of work, and include some sample reading — please read the introduction to the topics before deciding your topic.

Think about your chosen topic, and decide on an **aspect** of it, to be the focus for your literature review. (The aspect may be quite narrow; the accompanying website gives further guidance.) You will need to perform literature searches on the chosen topic and aspect and follow up a range of references before you prepare your submission.

Produce a **literature review**, and submit it in the format given in section 2, overleaf. The submission must total no more than five A4 pages of content, plus a bibliography of at most two A4 pages. The maximum word limit for the five content pages, including all titles, headers etc, but **excluding the bibliography**, must total no more than 2250 words.

Deviation from the requirements of the assessment and submission will be heavily penalised. You should follow style and content guidelines given in the CSW lecture notes, including those for spell-checking and proof-reading.

Further information on the content and marking criteria of the assessment are available on the accompanying website

`http://www-course.cs.york.ac.uk/csw/assessment/furtherInfo.pdf`

You should read these before proceeding.

2 Format for the Submission

The contents of the review must include the following.

1. A brief **introduction** to the particular area of computer science represented by the selected topic, using one or more core texts, lecture notes or other general sources [10 marks].

   - conclude with a brief introduction to the chosen aspect of the topic and the chosen literature.

2. A **review** of the chosen aspect of the topic, using *at most* four specific sources (papers, articles, books etc) [20 marks].

3. A **conclusion**, re-iterating the key findings of the review, and making a proposition related to the chosen topic and aspect [10 marks].

   - At the end of the conclusion, include a statement of the word count, by appropriately completing the following sentence:

     Report comprises [number] words as counted with [facility], excluding the bibliography.

   - You may use any suitable word-count facility, but must state exactly what you used (eg. *linux wc -l on raw latex source* etc.)

4. A **bibliography**, listing references to all the sources used in the assessment [5 marks]

   - Annotate each entry in the main bibliography, indicating whether it is used as a *general* source (in the introduction), or as a *specific* source (in the review).

   - Include a separate list of sources that you consulted for the assessment, but did not use in the submission.

   - Use a consistent bibliographic style, which conforms to the citation requirements given in the CSW lectures.

Some or all of the remaining 5 marks will be awarded for the overall quality of presentation and argument. Clear writing, consistent style, and careful presentation are likely to gain marks.