

## **Feedback for EEE222 Session:2008-2009**

### **General Comments:**

Students who attempt to pass this exam by memorizing chunks of the lecture notes and/or past exam paper answers invariably fail or score very badly. For some, language is a difficulty. However, some students who are clearly not good at English do nevertheless answer the question very fully and do well. Attendance at lectures towards the end of semester was very poor and this is clearly reflected in the poor quality of the answers on the subject matter covered in these lectures. Approximately 10% of the final mark was given for attendance and participation at tutorial sessions and this was a lifeline for several students who would otherwise have failed the module.

### **Question 1:**

Attempted by 68% of candidates. Part (a) was well attempted although some candidates got the definitions the wrong way round. (The idea is, for example, a plan for a book; the expression of the idea is the book itself). Many students answered part (b) (ii) by quoting illegal downloads etc. What was required was that someone executing a program means the program has been copied into RAM. This is circumvented by obtaining a licence.

Most students did reasonably well at describing the difference between literal and non-literal copying and managed to list the headings 'abstraction', 'filtration' and 'comparison' but explanation of these was weak.

Part (d) caused the most problems as students tended to think of the scenario in terms of copyright (following on from earlier parts) but they needed to mention the law of confidence etc. For part (d) (ii) the question was deliberately vague to allow students to discuss alternative situations where Mr. Davies worked in his lunch break (company time or not?) and it didn't mention whether he used the employer's computers or his own. This gives good students the opportunity to discuss all possible scenarios fully.

### **Question 2:**

Attempted by 80% of candidates. Generally students made a reasonable attempt at part (a) but tended to try and relate parts (i) and (ii) to the specific example rather than the general objectives of the act and its method of implementation. This was fully covered on a tutorial sheet so I had expected high scores on this part of the question. Part (b) was fairly well answered but many students failed to give examples or explain that Sensitive Data required the explicit consent of the Data Subject. In part (c) many candidates confused the Data Commissioner with a Data Controller.

### **Question 3:**

Attempted by 53% of candidates. EEE students should be aware of the activities of the IET and should easily be able to list six! Most candidates managed this but there was a tendency to duplicate activities (eg. organize seminars, organize meetings which effectively count as one activity). Part (b) was reasonably well attempted but the answers to part (c) were very poor as clearly students only remembered one or two rules and tried to make these fit with their argument. Some students even thought cancelling the training program to save money in part (c) (iii) was a good idea!

### **Question 4:**

Most popular question attempted by 96% of candidates, but also the lowest scoring. Candidates tended to miss read part (a) and describe at length about Health and Safety measures rather than steps in carrying out a Risk Assessment. For part (b) sections (i) and (ii) were poorly answered as students assumed the common meaning of the word rather than the legal terminology (e.g. Assignments – state whether the contract can be transferred or assigned (sold) to another party and NOT the tasks Mr. Clarkson has to do). In part (c) very few candidates made reference to IET rules in their answers and purely concentrated on Health and Safety as this was mentioned in part (a). Part (d) was incorrectly answered on the whole – many students thinking this was a good idea! – however the Unfair Contract Terms Act specifically prohibits the exclusion of business liability for death of personal injury. There were many weird and wonderful suggestions for part (e) but the question was looking for the mention of professional liability insurance, although part marks were awarded for seeking legal advice.