Examination Feedback for EEE222 – Professional Issues in Engineering Spring Semester 2011-12

Feedback for EEE222 Session: 2011-2012

General Comments:

The exam contributes 90% to the overall mark for this module with the remaining 10% coming from attendance and participation in the weekly tutorials.

Candidates on the whole made a reasonable attempt at this paper, although some answers were extremely brief. Certain papers were extremely untidy making answers very difficult to read.

Several candidates should have received zero marks as they did not indicate on the front cover of the answerbook which questions they had answered and which they wished the examiner to mark! You should always indicate the questions attempted in the table on the front sheet in the order in which you attempt them.

Question 1:

Attempted by approximately 97% of candidates. This question was very similar to an example covered in the tutorial class and most candidates made a reasonable attempt at answering it. The main problem was in part (a) where many candidates did not answer the question asked, but instead gave examples of infringements etc. Most candidates made a good attempt at part (b)(i), (ii) and (iii). In part (b)(iv) several candidates detailed the process of applying for a patent, which was not what the question asked; others gave very brief answers and didn't discuss all possibilities available.

Question 2:

Attempted by approximately 20% of candidates. On the whole this question was poorly answered mainly because the majority of students provided very brief answers. Part (a) is standard bookwork but many candidates could not remember these. Part (b) was correctly answered by about half the candidates; the other half either skipped it or wrote random statements! The main problem in part (c) was that candidates did not read the question – it was not asking what would be expected in a contract to undertake work, but what was to be found in a confidentiality agreement. Most candidates made an attempt at all sections of part (d), but answers were very brief and did not discuss all implications.

Question 3:

Attempted by approximately 94% of candidates. Part (a) was generally well answered. In part (b) a lot of candidates only answered half the question – it asks for the steps taken in performing a risk assessment and what actions should be taken. In all of part (c) I was generous with marks as some of the explanations were not written in very clear English. The main problems in parts (i) and (iii) was that candidates tended to confuse or mix up the responsibilities of Susan and Mr. Lake.

Question 4:

Attempted by approximately 87% of candidates. This question was very similar to a question discussed in the tutorial classes and which has appeared on past exams. Parts (a) and (b) were generally well answered although there was some confusion between the Information Commissioner and the Data Controller. In part (c)(i) the majority of candidates gave a reasonable answer, but others spent a long time quoting irrelevant scenarios of what may happen to Matthew's data etc. The main problem in part (c)(ii) was that candidates stated that both companies must comply with the rules of the DPA, rather than giving any of examples of what these were. In part (d) answers were rather brief.