

**BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT**

BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS  
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT

**PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Afternoon**

Answer **any** FOUR questions out of SIX. All questions carry equal marks.  
Time: TWO hours

**Answer any Section A questions you attempt in Answer Book A**  
**Answer any Section B questions you attempt in Answer Book B**

The marks given in brackets are **indicative** of the weight given to each part of the question.

Calculators are <b>NOT</b> allowed in this examination.
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**Section A**

**Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A**

- A1.** This question is about **professions** and **professional bodies**.
- a) Explain the meaning of the term profession and give examples of TWO professions. **(5 marks)**
  - b) Explain the purpose of professional bodies. **(4 marks)**
  - c) Discuss **FOUR** examples of how professional bodies can contribute to professional practice. **(4 x 4 marks)**
- A2.** This question is about **selection techniques** for professional appointments and the **BCS Code of Conduct**.
- a) Discuss TWO selection techniques available to employees when seeking to make professional appointments. **(10 marks)**
  - b) One section in the BCS Code of Conduct is 'Professional competence and integrity'. Explain the meaning of 'Professional competence and integrity' referring to the BCS's Code of Conduct. Using a practical example, discuss how this might have an impact on professional behaviour in IS practice. **(15 marks)**
- A3.** This question is about **management structures**.
- a) Many organisations divide their management into THREE levels i.e. top, middle and lower. Discuss the main skills required at each level. **(12 marks)**
  - b) The matrix management structure enables an employee to be assigned to different projects over time.
    - i) Discuss TWO advantages of the matrix management structure for the employee. **(6 marks)**
    - ii) Discuss TWO advantages of the matrix management structure for the organisation. **(7 marks)**

**Section B**  
**Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B**

**B4.** This question is about **management accounting** and **finance**.

a) Explain the following terms with at least one example of each term. The examples should be relevant for a manufacturing company.

- Direct cost
- Indirect cost
- Fixed cost
- Variable cost
- Overheads

**(5 x 3 marks)**

b) Cowley Industries bought some computer equipment in January 2010 which includes a printer worth £1500, a file server worth £15,000 and 50 computers worth £700 each. Its depreciation policy for computer hardware is to write assets off over five years using straight line depreciation method. At the end of year 4, all of the equipment was sold for £10,000.

i) Create a yearly depreciation chart for this equipment.

**(8 marks)**

ii) Calculate the effect of the sale of the equipment on the Cowley Industries annual accounts at the end of year 4.

**(2 marks)**

**B5.** This question is about **Legal Obligations**.

a) Discuss what a UK public authority such as a Fire and Rescue Service would need to do to comply with the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**(12 marks)**

b) A UK police force is investigating a case of suspected terrorism. The suspected terrorists all use the same Internet Services Provider. Discuss how the Internet Services Provider would need to support the police investigation under UK investigatory powers legislation, e.g. the UK Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

**(13 marks)**

**B6.** This question is about **patents** and **trademarks**.

a) A UK company has developed a novel computing device which is completely flexible and can be rolled up. Discuss the protection for the company that could be provided by a patent and a trademark.

**(12 marks)**

b) For the company in part a), discuss what the company would need to do to obtain a patent and a trademark.

**(13 marks)**