

BCS THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT

BCS HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS
BCS Level 5 Diploma in IT

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PRACTICE

Wednesday 27th April 2011 – Morning.

Answer 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 NOT allowed in this examination.

Section A

Answer Section A questions in Answer Book A

- A1. For each of the following clauses in the BCS Code of Conduct, explain the purpose of the clause and discuss the issues members of the BCS face in trying to comply with the clause:
- a) Clause 6: You shall carry out work or study with due care and diligence in accordance with the relevant authority's requirements, and the interests of system users. If your professional judgement is overruled, you shall indicate the likely risks and consequences.
 - b) Clause 3: You shall ensure that within your professional field/s you have *knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, regulations and standards*, and that you comply with such requirements.
 - c) Clause 8: You shall not disclose or authorise to be disclosed, or use for personal gain or to benefit a third party, confidential information except with the permission of your relevant authority, or at the direction of a court of law.
 - d) Clause 15: You shall not claim any level of competence that you do not possess. You shall only offer to do work or provide a service that is within your professional competence.
 - e) Clause 16: You shall observe the relevant BCS Codes of Practice and any other standards which, in your judgement, are relevant, and you shall encourage your colleagues to do likewise.

(5 x 5 marks)

Turn over]

- A2. a) Describe THREE selection techniques available to employers when seeking to make professional appointments.

(15 marks)

- b) Explain the role of:
- (i) the company secretary;
 - (ii) non-executive directors.

(10 marks)

- A3. a) Briefly describe the THREE principles that are fundamental to the concept of a limited company.

(9 marks)

- b) You are the software development manager for an IT services company. The board of directors is considering introducing a system of management by objectives (MBO) across the whole company and is asking for managers' views about the proposal. Write a memorandum assessing the effect (positive or negative) that you think this would have on the performance of your team.

(16 marks)

Section B

Answer Section B questions in Answer Book B

- B4. a) Explain the purpose and use of the following accounting documents:

- i) balance sheet;
- ii) profit and loss account;
- iii) annual cash flow forecast.

(12 marks)

- b) Assume that you work for a software company providing 'hosted solutions', that is, services for business applications such as payroll or accounts which are made available over the internet and include both the necessary software and the computing facilities to run it. Explain using examples how the following assets would be valued for balance sheet purposes:

- i) buildings, such as a data centre;
- ii) computer equipment, such as the servers in the data centre;
- iii) debtors, such as clients who pay on a quarterly basis in arrears for use of the software.

(13 marks)

- B5. a) Compare and contrast the protection that copyright and trademarks can provide for computer games software.

(16 marks)

- b) A student who has been given poor marks by one of his lecturers writes a blog alleging (falsely) that the lecturer has accepted bribes from other students to increase their marks. The lecturer complains to the ISP that hosts the blog and threatens to sue the ISP for defamation. What should the ISP do in order to avoid liability and how far is the likely to be successful?

Does it make any difference if the student works part time for the ISP?

(9 marks)

- B6. a) Blue Sky provides payroll services for a number of UK based clients. It processes payroll data from its UK clients on its cloud computing servers which are based worldwide. Recently some of its clients have become concerned that Blue Sky has not deleted old payroll data that is no longer required, and that some of the payroll data has been obtained by third parties.

Discuss how the UK Data Protection Act 1998 would apply to Blue Sky's operations.

(12 marks)

- b) Explain what is meant by a 'Publication Scheme' in the context of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), illustrating your explanation with reference to a public authority of your choice.

(7 marks)

- c) List THREE exemptions from the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000, giving a brief example in each case.

(6 marks)